

**PART A**  
**STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES**



**NATIONAL SAFETY CODE  
FOR MOTOR CARRIERS**

**PURPOSE**

The National Safety Code for Motor Carriers (also referred to as “NSC”) is designed to establish a comprehensive code of minimum performance standards for the safe operation of commercial vehicles.

**SCOPE**

The Code applies to all persons responsible for the operation of commercial vehicles on the road, including trucks, buses, tractors and trailers.

**DEFINITIONS**

Within the context of this document, the following definitions apply:

1. **Approved** (*approuvé*) As approved by the Canadian Council of Motor Transport Administrators (CCMTA).
2. **Carrier** (*transporteur*) A person who owns, leases or is responsible for the operation of a commercial vehicle for the purpose of transporting passengers or goods.
3. **Commercial Vehicle** (*véhicule commercial*)
  - a) A truck, tractor, or trailer, or combination thereof exceeding a registered gross vehicle weight of 4 500 kg.

**OR**

- b) A bus designed, constructed and used for the transportation of passengers with a designated seating capacity of more than 10, including the driver, but excluding the operation for personal use.
4. **Driver** (*conducteur*) Any person who drives a commercial vehicle subject to this Code.
5. **Inspector** (*inspecteur*) A person duly authorized to enforce federal or provincial statutes related to the Code.

**GENERAL**

Every carrier, his officers and persons employed by the carrier shall be conversant with this Code and shall ensure compliance with all applicable federal and provincial statutes and approved CCMTA Standards.

**DRIVER REQUIREMENTS**

- |     |   |                        |
|-----|---|------------------------|
| 1.  | Every driver shall qualify for a licence through the approved Examination Process.  | Licensing              |
| 2.  | Every driver shall hold a driver licence issued by the province, territory or state of residence valid for the class of commercial vehicle being operated.                                    |                        |
| 3.  | No driver shall hold more than one driver licence unless otherwise required by law.   |                        |
| 4.  | Every driver shall meet the approved Medical Standards.   |                        |
| 5.  | Every driver shall maintain a level of driving performance in compliance with provincial Driver Improvement and Control Standards.  | Driver Control         |
| 6.  | Every driver or his employer shall report every commercial vehicle accident to the proper authorities in compliance with provincial statutes.   | Accident reporting     |
| 7.  | No driver shall operate a commercial vehicle while impaired by alcohol, fatigue, sickness, drugs or other elements.   | Impairment             |
| 8.  | Every driver is encouraged to complete a CCMTA approved first aid training course   | First aid              |
| 9.  | Every driver shall, at all times, be satisfied that the commercial vehicle is in safe operating condition.  | Vehicle condition      |
| 10. | Every driver shall conduct daily vehicle trip inspections and shall report to the carrier, in writing, apparent safety-related defects on each commercial vehicle operated.                   | Trip inspection report |
| 11. | No driver shall operate a commercial vehicle in violation of the Hours of Service Regulations.  | Hours of service       |
| 12. | Every driver shall keep a record, in the approved form, of daily driving activities according to the Hours of Service Regulations and shall make it available at the request of an inspector. |                        |
| 13. | Every driver and carrier is encouraged to operate commercial vehicles with running lamps or illuminated headlamps during daytime hours.   | Daytime running lamps  |

14. No person shall load a commercial vehicle used to transport freight and no person shall drive such a vehicle unless: Cargo  
Securement
- a) the commercial vehicle's cargo is properly distributed and adequately secured as specified in the approved standard on cargo securement;
  - b) the commercial vehicle's tailgate, tailboard, doors, tarpaulins and spare tire along with other equipment used in its operation and the means of fastening the commercial vehicle's cargo are secured; and
  - c) the commercial vehicle's cargo or any other object does not interfere with the free movement of the driver's arms or legs, prevent his free and ready access to accessories required for emergencies, or prevent the free and ready exit of any person from the driver's cab or driver's compartment.
15. Every driver of a commercial vehicle shall: Clear view
- a) have a clear view of the highway to the front and to both sides of the commercial vehicle, and
  - b) have, without need of facing to the rear, a clear view of the highway to the rear of the commercial vehicle.
16. Every driver of a bus shall ensure that baggage, freight or express on the bus is stowed and secured in a manner which assures: Baggage
- a) unrestricted freedom of movement to the driver and his proper operation of the bus;
  - b) unobstructed access to all exits by any occupant of the bus; and
  - c) protection of occupants of the bus against injury resulting from the falling or displacement of articles transported in the bus.

17. Every driver shall ensure that:
- a) his commercial vehicle is loaded such that the overall dimensions, overall weight and the weight on each axle are within the limits authorized by the jurisdictions in which the commercial vehicle is being operated; and Weight/  
Dimensions
  - b) for normal operating conditions the load on an individual tire shall not exceed its maximum load as stated by the tire manufacturer on the tire sidewall in accordance with the Canada Motor Vehicle Tire Safety Standard 119. The tires should not be inflated beyond the manufacturer's rating. Tires

### **CARRIER REQUIREMENTS**

18. Every carrier shall require that every driver for whom he is responsible observe safe driving practices and comply with all applicable federal and provincial statutes and all driver requirements stated herein.
19. Every carrier shall maintain records covering at least the following: accidents, hours of service, commercial vehicle inspection reports, convictions, medical reports, and from these records shall monitor each driver's performance. Records
20. Every carrier shall obtain driver profiles from the appropriate government agency and shall review the same prior to hiring drivers. Profile
21. Every carrier shall designate a person to promote compliance with this Code and is encouraged to employ a fleet safety supervisor and implement safety training and incentive programs. Promote  
compliance
22. No carrier shall require or permit a driver to operate a commercial vehicle in violation of the Hours of Service Regulations Hours of  
service
23. Every carrier shall keep a record, in the approved form, of daily driving activities according to the Hours of Service Regulations and shall make it available at the request of an inspector.
24. Where not otherwise required by law, carriers are encouraged to require all drives to wear seat belts. Seat Belts
25. No carrier shall permit the driving or operation upon a highway of a commercial vehicle that is in a dangerous or unsafe condition. Vehicle  
condition
26. Every carrier is responsible for inspection, repair, maintenance and modification of all commercial vehicles subject to his control according to the Commercial Vehicle Maintenance Standards. Commercial  
vehicle  
maintenance

27. Every carrier shall maintain, and make available upon request to an inspector, commercial vehicle maintenance and inspection records in accordance with the Commercial Vehicle Maintenance Standards
28. Where a carrier is notified or becomes aware of a Notice of Defect issued by a vehicle manufacturer pursuant to the Motor Vehicle Safety Act and the Notice applies to a commercial vehicle operated by the carrier, the carrier shall forthwith, or as soon thereafter as is practicable, ensure that the commercial vehicle is corrected as instructed by the manufacturer or that it is repaired or modified such that the defect no longer exists. Notice of defect
29. a) Every carrier shall require every driver to conduct daily vehicle trip inspections and report, in writing, all apparent safety-related defects on each commercial vehicle operated, and the report shall cover at least the following parts and accessories: Reports of defects
- service brakes, including trailer brake connections; parking brake; steering mechanism; lighting devices and reflectors; tires; horn; windshield wipers; rear-vision mirrors; coupling devices; wheels and rims; emergency equipment.
- b) Prior to operating a commercial vehicle, every item listed in the driver's report or other inspection reports shall be repaired by the carrier to comply with the Commercial Vehicle Maintenance Standards.
30. No carrier shall operate, or cause or permit to be operated, any commercial vehicle for the transportation of freight unless the construction and equipment of the commercial vehicle and the manner in which freight is loaded and secured are such that the commercial vehicle can be operated safely and without danger of overturning, and such as to prevent the load or any portion thereof from shifting or swaying dangerously, falling off, leaking or otherwise escaping from the vehicle. Safety of operation

### **DANGEROUS GOODS**

31. No driver shall operate a commercial vehicle and no carrier shall cause a commercial vehicle to be operated that is transporting dangerous goods subject to federal or provincial /territorial transportation of dangerous goods regulations other than in conformance with the requirements of the Transportation of Dangerous Goods Regulations.

