

Request for Proposal

for

**Hearing Requirements and Medical Fitness for
Commercial Drivers: Research Study**

CANADIAN COUNCIL OF MOTOR TRANSPORT ADMINISTRATORS (CCMTA)

December 1, 2025

Interested bidders must access
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1.0 Background

The Canadian Council of Motor Transport Administrators (CCMTA) provides national coordination on matters related to road safety and motor vehicle regulation. One of its key responsibilities includes maintaining the [National Safety Code \(NSC\) 6 standards](#), which set out medical fitness requirements for all classes of drivers across Canada.

Under NSC Standard 6, Chapter 9 Hearing Loss, commercial licence applicants/holders must meet a minimum hearing threshold to obtain or retain a licence. This requirement is intended to ensure drivers can perceive auditory cues to support safe vehicle operation. However, as part of CCMTA's ongoing review cycle to ensure that national standards reflect the highest levels of evidence and relevance, this requirement is being re-evaluated.

CCMTA via the Drivers Fitness Oversight Group (DFOG) and the Drivers and Vehicles (D&V) Committee is seeking to build a robust evidence base before considering standard amendments. This includes:

- Estimating the number of commercial drivers in Canada who may be affected by the hearing threshold;
- Reviewing empirical research on hearing impairment and commercial driving safety outcomes;
- Comparing regulatory, training, and operational approaches in jurisdictions such as the United States, where the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) operates a Hearing Exemption Program.

The findings will inform internal analysis and briefing to the D&V Committee and CCMTA Board. This work is not intended to predetermine policy decisions but to clarify the scope, impacts, and feasibility of updating NSC 6.