

Transportation of dangerous substances regulation

Reminder that certain regulatory provisions will come into force in summer 2006

On May 25, 2005, the Government of Québec adopted the Regulation to amend the Transportation of Dangerous Substances Regulation (TDSR). This regulation was published in the *Gazette officielle du Québec* on June 8, 2005 and is in force since June 23 of that year, except for requirements for tank trucks. Indeed, this regulation provides that two regulatory provisions will come into force on August 15, 2006 for tank trucks conforming to CSA Standards B620, B621 and B622. These provisions concern driver assistance systems and increased effective rating of fire extinguishers¹.

1. Driver assistance systems

A tank truck assembled on or after August 15, 2006 will have to be equipped with one of the following systems:

- a driver monitoring system that records significant speed variations and relevant data on the date, time and speed;
- an electronic system for dynamic stabilization of the vehicle to assist the driver during a critical manoeuvre.

In the case of a tank truck assembled before August 15, 2006, a speed limiter that limits speed to 100 km/h is also accepted.

Warning concerning GPS

Systems that compute the speed of the vehicle only by using Global Positioning System (GPS) technology cannot suitably satisfy the regulatory provision unless the system captures and records the positioning signals at a sufficient frequency.

The regulation requires, in particular, recording of significant speed variations, which normally translates into recording of sudden braking.

¹ Tank trucks transporting a petroleum product or liquefied petroleum gas subject to the TDSR must be equipped with fire extinguishers.

GPS technology is an optional function, but recording the speed and its significant variations is a regulatory obligation. Thus, it is essential that the speed data be captured at a sufficiently high frequency, for example, from the electronic information of the tractor vehicle's Engine Control Module (ECM). For trucks not equipped with such a module, it is possible to use the data coming from speed sensors.

It is thus important for the systems that measures the vehicle's speed only from a GPS signal to ensure with the suppliers that the frequency of the positions recorded is adequate to detect high deceleration rapidly.

2. Effective rating of fire extinguishers

Effective August 15, 2006, for each tank of a tank truck transporting a petroleum product or a liquefied petroleum gas subject to the TDSR, the effective total rating of one or two fire extinguishers will have to be at least 40 BC (9 lb) instead of 20 BC (5 lb). For example, in the case of a Type B double train, each tank must have one or two extinguishers with an effective total rating of at least 40 BC per tank.

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For more information concerning the Transportation of Dangerous Substances Regulation, visit the Web site of the Ministère des Transports du Québec at www.mtq.gouv.qc.ca or call 1 888 355-0511.

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