

**Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal**

## Hours of Service Rules

**Effective December 15, 2009**

The Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal advises that new provincial *Commercial Drivers' Hours of Service Regulations* have been approved, and they will apply to all motor carriers and drivers operating within Nova Scotia.

**Hours of Service Outline**

The purpose of the new provincial regulations is to reduce the risk of fatigue-related transport vehicle collisions by providing more opportunities for drivers to rest. The new regulations are almost the same as the federal regulations which have been in effect since January 1, 2007.

Comparing to the previous provincial rules, the maximum daily driving time has been reduced from 14 hours to 13 hours. The maximum daily on-duty time has also been reduced from 16 hours to 14 hours. A maximum daily work shift has been set at 16 hours. The minimum daily off-duty time has been increased from 8 hours to 10 hours. The number of work cycles has been reduced from 3 to 2. Log books will continue to be required, and records for the previous 14 days will need to be kept in the vehicle.

For local operations, within 160 km radius of home base and returning home at the end of each day, the amount of record keeping required for the federal regulations has been reduced in the provincial rules. The local driver will only be required to keep track of working time and not the specific times when the driver has been driving or doing other work. The maximum daily on-duty time will remain at 14 hours and the minimum daily off-duty time will remain at 10 hours. Daily driving time will be limited by the maximum daily on-duty time. The recording of working time does not have to be in a log book, but it must be readable and understandable. These records must be kept in the vehicle for the previous 7 days.

**Enforcement Policy**

There will be a transition period until June 30, 2010. Nova Scotia Vehicle Compliance Officers will be providing carriers and drivers with feedback and the required information to understand and comply with the new regulations.

In cases of violations, enforcement action consisting of warnings up to and including out-of-service declarations will be taken at road side and during facility audits to ensure road safety.

For the more serious cases and/or upon incidences of repeated violations and multiple warnings, Vehicle Compliance Officers will retain the discretion to lay appropriate charges.

The new provincial regulations are available through: <http://www.gov.ns.ca/just/regulations/regs/mvdriver.htm>

For further information please contact:

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For more information on trucking, visit the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal website at: <http://www.gov.ns.ca/tran/trucking>, or contact Mike Balsom, Vehicle Standards Engineer, 902-424-0070, e-mail: [balsommg@gov.ns.ca](mailto:balsommg@gov.ns.ca)