



Periodic inspections of **commercial motor vehicles**

Changes to take effect in January 2015

The Ministry of Transportation (MTO) has updated its criteria for the annual, semi-annual, and safety standard inspections of commercial motor vehicles. The changes will harmonize Ontario's inspection requirements with those of all other Canadian provinces and territories except Quebec. They also recognize the latest safety features found in today's large trucks and buses.

In July 2011, the MTO adopted the National Safety Code Standard 11 Part B, commonly known as the National Standard. You may also hear it called the Periodic Commercial Motor Vehicle Inspections standard. This standard is currently being updated for safety inspections.

Large trucks, trailers, buses, school-purpose vehicles, and accessible vehicles must still be inspected and certified periodically. In future, however, the National Standard will be the standard for annual, semi-annual, and safety-standard inspections for these vehicles.

This standard enhances safety since it provides greater detail and employs a user-friendly pass/fail scheme. It also reflects recent technological enhancements to today's large commercial vehicles. Any future updates to the standard will be adopted in Ontario so that the inspection criteria used in this province will stay current.

An educational transition period has been provided to allow technicians and vehicle owners to learn the new inspection criteria and adapt to them. This education period had originally been scheduled to end on July 1, 2013. This is now extended to January 1, 2015, at which time technicians must ensure that vehicles meet the new criteria contained in the National Standard.

The National Safety Code Standard 11B is currently being updated for all jurisdictions in Canada. The proposed revisions will not add any significant inspection requirements, however, it will add clarity and consistent language that is lacking in the current National Standard.

There has been no change to the inspection criteria for small vehicles, motorcycles, motor tricycles, and salvage vehicles or to the on-road standard for all vehicles. The new inspection criteria for annual, semi-annual, and safety-standard inspections apply only to the following vehicles:

- trucks and trailers that, alone or in combination, weigh more than 4,500 kg
- buses designed to carry 10 or more passengers, except those under 4,500 kg and used exclusively for personal use
- school-purpose vehicles transporting six or more children or adults with developmental disabilities
- accessible vehicles used for the transportation of persons with disabilities.

As before, trucks and trailers must be inspected annually, and other kinds of vehicles semi-annually. Commercial vehicles must display stickers showing that they have passed the required inspection.

The ministry's internal study of the National standard and its consultation with industry led to 12 modifications to the standards to make them suitable for use in Ontario. These "Ontario customizations," which pertain to such things as window tinting and anti-lock brakes for example, are intended to prevent undue hardship for the industry.

Publication of the updated National Standard will be announced on the CCMTA and MTO websites. Vehicle owners and technicians who need help in adapting to the National Standard can find more information, including an explanation of the "Ontario Customizations" and a comparison of Ontario's current and new requirements, on the MTO website: mto.gov.on.ca/english/trucks/regulations/annual.shtml

The new inspection criteria can be found in the *Highway Traffic Act*, Regulation 611 ("Safety Inspections"), which has been amended.

The National Standard was developed by the Canadian Council of Motor Transport Administrators and is for sale on their website, www.ccmta.ca