



RUMBLINGS

FOR SAFE ROADS, LOADS AND DRIVERS — ACROSS BRITISH COLUMBIA
FORESTRY TRUCKSAFE



BC **Forest Safety** Council

○ PRINTABLE VERSION

September 11, 2009----ISSUE 109

Safety in Forestry Transportation TruckSafe Rumbings is published biweekly to keep you informed on what is happening in forest hauling safety in BC. Call MaryAnne Arcand to provide input or get the news out on best practices and concerns in the industry.

Editor's Note: until the Forestry TruckSafe position has been filled, MaryAnne Arcand will continue to edit and produce Rumbings. We may have a couple guest editors over the next couple of months, so stay tuned for different perspectives and different 'voices'. Thanks

HST and Trucking and Loggers

According to Finance Minister Colin Hanson and Forest Minister Pat Bell, both of whom we met with this week, the HST is going to be helpful to truckers and loggers. By combining the GST and the PST to get the Harmonized Sales Tax (HST), the whole 12% becomes eligible for the input tax credit and rebate, rather than only the GST the way it is now. So instead of only getting the 5% GST as a tax credit or rebate, you'll get 12%, a 7% increase. Besides that, the PST costs embedded in certain goods should disappear, reducing some prices.

Also, similar to PST exemptions, HST will provide consumers *with point-of-sale rebates on a number of products including gas and diesel*, which means consumers do not have to pay the provincial portion of the HST at the pump, a 12% exemption instead of 7%, so there should be a net reduction in the cost of fuel.

BC Trucking Association President Paul Landry has this to say about it:

"The timing of the HST couldn't be better for trucking. Trucks manufactured on or after July 1, 2010 will have to meet a new emission standard that will make them virtually smog-free."

"Most of the new engines will also be more fuel-efficient, thus reducing GHGs. Input tax credits will also make several expensive energy-efficient technologies, such as aerodynamic devices and low-rolling resistance tires, more affordable.

"Similarly, there are new advanced safety technologies such as vehicle-stability systems that reduce rollovers and electronic on board recorders that monitor driver hours of work that will be more affordable.

"Safety technologies and energy efficiency devices aren't limited to new purchases. These can also be installed on existing equipment.

"Input tax credits (ITC) sounds technical and boring, and not particularly useful or productive. But in the hands of

the trucking industry, ITCs will be parlayed into sound investments in new technologies, equipment and facilities that will help us to be safer and greener while improving our productivity and efforts to help the BC economy rebound.”

Like Roy Nagel from the CILA said in his newsletter last week, we’ll just have to wait and see how it all works out.

Next week is Brake Safety Week (Sept 13 – 19)

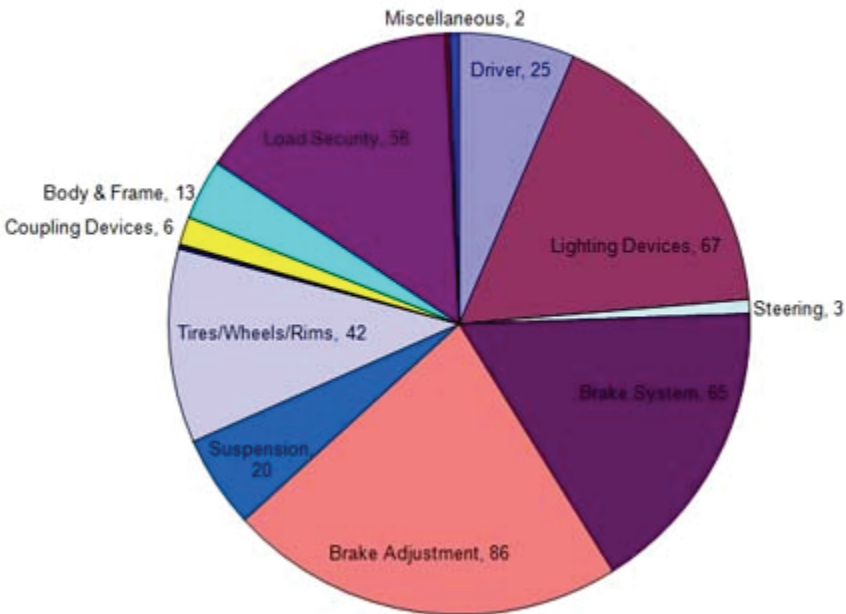
CVSA, the Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance has declared next week “Brake Safety Week”. The CVSA is an international not-for-profit organization comprised of local, state, provincial, territorial and federal motor carrier safety officials and industry representatives from the United States, Canada, and Mexico. Their mission is to promote commercial motor vehicle safety and security by providing leadership to enforcement, industry and policy makers. CVSA member jurisdictions are represented by various Departments of Transportation, Public Utility and Service Commissions, State Police, Highway Patrols and Ministries of Transport, including Canada’s.

British Columbia is a founding member. All of the CVSE enforcement officers and some Police officers are CVSA trained and certified to perform CVSA level 1 inspections (the most thorough). To retain certification, all inspectors must perform a minimum of 32 inspections annually and must attend required upgrade training.

In recent years, CVSA Region V (Canada) has taken a leadership role in developing and implementing focused enforcement campaigns designed to reduce incidence of high risk safety defects and heighten industry awareness.

Recent information we obtained from National Safety Code Director, Suzanne Watson, clearly shows that brakes and their maintenance remains a significant issue for BC trucks. A large portion of BC’s out-of-service orders had to do with brake adjustments and brake conditions (mechanical) on power units and trailers. You can expect road checks and brake inspections to increase as targeted enforcement takes on the brake safety issue.

Number of Power Unit Out of Services Vehicles for 2008



Truckers Come Out with Their Own Cookbook

A dietician and a trucker/writer have come out with a cookbook and healthy eating guide for truckers, called “RoadCookin’: A Long Haul Trucker’s Guide to Healthy Eating”.

The authors, dietician Pam Whitefield and trucker Don Jacobson, say their research, "shows that 82 percent of truckers are overweight while 55 percent are obese. For the over three million OTR drivers, we're talking crisis." Because when it comes to truck-driving, if there's an elephant in the cab, it's health; and this book addresses that much-neglected feature of your business.

According to a review in Today's Trucking, "The book's not only full of plain-talking health tips and good advice, it's written in trucker-ese; as in, the language is clear; playful and there's zero b.s". Might be worth taking a look!

SHARP Conference Registration Deadline

Just a reminder that the SHARP Conference on Understanding Human Factors is coming up on September 24th and 25th. The Conference is free to all SAFE Companies, and to members of the Associations that are part of the Forest Safety Council. Email brad@confir.ca for details.

Fitness to Drive Conference

Registrations are coming in fast for the Fitness to Drive Conference being held in Prince George Oct 20 and 21. There is no charge to attend this conference, and participants will be receiving a tool kit full of information, presentations, "tool box talks" to have with workers and a variety of helpful resources, on everything from fatigue management and sleep apnea, to obligations for reporting to the Superintendent of Motor Vehicles, vision care, diabetes management, and so on. The tool kit will be available post conference if you can't make it to the conference itself but would still like the information. For more information go to www.roadhealth.org

Forestry "Island" at UBCM Conference

A cluster of forest interests, including the BC Forest Safety Council, will be hosting forestry "island" at the Union of BC Municipalities Convention the week after next. The UBCM Convention is the annual gathering of local and provincial politicians to discuss policy and direction for BC communities. The purpose of the Forestry "Island" display is to remind government that forestry is, and will remain, a significant contributor to the province's economy, and the sustainability of some 300 small communities in BC. Despite the current downturn, forestry is not a "sunset industry", and governments need to recognize that it needs to be counted and considered as much as the oil patch and mining in future decisions.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Sept 24 -25 SHARP Conference, Prince George
- Oct 20- 21 CrossRoads "Fit to Drive" Road Safety Conference, Prince George
- Jan 20-22 TLA Convention, Victoria
- June 3-5/10 Resources Expo, Prince George

If you know someone who would be interested in receiving TruckSafe Rumbings, please forward this email along. Signing up is easy. Just [click here](#) and you will be taken to our new sign up page. If you know someone who'd be interested but doesn't have email, forward their fax number to us at arcand@bctrucksafe.org