



Vehicle registration & licensing

Towing with industrial vehicles

Backhoes, graders, tractors, loaders, forklifts, excavators and similar industrial vehicles can tow trailers, implements, and other vehicles if the towed trailer, implement or other vehicle is unladen and does not exceed a gross vehicle weight (GVW) of 5500 kg.



Key points

Industrial vehicles must not operate with a load while travelling on highway to and from worksites, as set out in the *Motor Vehicle Act* (MVA) and the industrial vehicle licence.

Towing an empty trailer or other vehicle is not a laden operation, as long as the towed vehicle does not rest an appreciable part of its weight on the towing vehicle or exceed 5500 kg GVW. This means industrial vehicles may not tow a semi-trailer or “gooseneck”, but they may tow other empty trailers and un-laden vehicles that do not exceed 5500 kg GVW.

Regulations respecting trailer connections, towed vehicles, and brakes apply.

What’s new?

Previously, operators of industrial vehicles licensed with an “X plate” may have been advised that they could not tow on highway, except for towing an un-laden, B.C. licensed motor vehicle used to return from a worksite, for example if the industrial vehicle is to be left at a remote work location. Now, ICBC recognizes that towing is not necessarily a laden operation.

What does this mean for operators?

Operators can get equipment to and from a job site more efficiently by towing. For example, an X-plated vehicle can tow a licensed implement to use at their jobsite, they do not necessarily require a separate driver and truck or truck and trailer to transport the implement.

What about the licence?

Industrial vehicles continue to be registered and licensed for un-laden travel to and from worksites. While operating with this licence they must display the “X-plate” issued for the vehicle by ICBC.





What about other operating authorities?

Industrial vehicles may be operated under different operating authorities, including other licences (farm tractor, restricted plate, or special fleet) a temporary or quarterly permit, and exemptions in the MVA or *Commercial Transport Act* (CTA).

If the industrial vehicle is being used solely for farming, the farm tractor licence may be more appropriate, as laden operation is allowed for specified situations. More information is available from the [Farm vehicles on the move](#) brochure. Owners also may discuss options with an Autoplan broker.

Industrial equipment under 1600 kg may also be licensed under the Restricted plate program. This program and associated permit requirements are described in the [Operation permit \(MV1815\) information sheet](#).

An industrial vehicle may be listed as a fleet vehicle on a special licence for vehicles used in industry, as provided for in the MVA. With this special licence, the industrial vehicle is still subject to the same "no-load" operating restriction of the industrial vehicle licence, however instead of an "X-plate" it will display the regular commercial floater number plate that was issued to the fleet.

Temporary operation permits are available from Autoplan brokers and commercial non-resident quarterly permits are available from the [Provincial Permit Centre](#); the "no-load" restrictions apply.

In limited situations, there are MVA exemptions on registration, licensing, number plate display, and ICBC insurance, as described in [Vehicle registration and licensing bulletin 8](#). A similar exemption applies under the CTA for operations within highway construction project boundaries, or operation on behalf of the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure or a municipality while maintaining or repairing or snow plowing a highway.

Legislation and regulations

<i>Commercial Transport Act</i>	Section 3	- Act not to apply to some road building machines
<i>Commercial Transport Act</i>	Sections 4&5	- <i>Motor Vehicle Act</i> provisions & <i>Motor Vehicle</i> regulations
<i>Motor Vehicle Act</i>	Section 3.1	- Exemptions - registration, licence and insurance
<i>Motor Vehicle Act</i>	Section 9	- Special licence for motor vehicles used in industry
<i>Motor Vehicle Act</i>	Section 10	- Special licence for tractors, etc.
<i>Motor Vehicle Act Regulations</i>	Division 7.07	- Trailer connections and towed vehicles
<i>Motor Vehicle Act Regulations</i>	Division 24	- Vehicles of unusual size, weight or operating characteristics

Contact

For more information, contact: Rob Miller, Senior Business Analyst
Vehicle Registration Programs
250-414-7907 or email Rob.Miller@icbc.com

For a copy of this or a previous bulletin, visit: <http://partners.icbc.com/insurance-services/vehreg-bulletins.asp> To access this link, your browser must meet the TLS 1.2 security standard. If supported on your browser, security settings may be set to TLS 1.2 in advanced internet options.

Mark Francis
Manager, Provincial Vehicle Registration & Licensing
ICBC



Distribution list

B.C. Ministry of Environment

Conservation Officer Service (Chief C.O.)

B.C. Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

Compliance and Enforcement Branch (Director)

Land Tenures Branch (Manager responsible for ORVs)

B.C. Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General

CPPO (Directors of Policy & Legislation and Corporate Initiatives)

Police Services Division, Road Safety Unit (Director)

RoadSafetyBC, Policy Unit (Director)

B.C. Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure

CVSE (Director)

CVSE (Deputy Director)

Provincial Permit Centre (Manager)

Transportation Policy & Programs Dept. (Exec. Director)

Transportation Policy Branch (Manager)

Canadian Border Services Agency

Law Enforcement

BC Association of Chiefs of Police

Municipal Police forces

PRIME-BC

RCMP "E" Division, Traffic Services (Officer in Charge)

RCMP, Lower Mainland District Traffic Services (Officer in Charge)

Other Jurisdictions

Canadian Council of Motor Transport Authorities (CCMTA)

American Association of Motor Transport Authorities (AAMVA)

Registrar of Imported Vehicles

RIV Policy, Standards & Enforcement (Compliance Manager)

Toll operators

Transport Canada

Motor Vehicle Regulation Enforcement (Director)

Road Safety and Motor Vehicle Regulation (Director General)

U.S. Customs & Border Protection

ICBC

Business Education - Insurance

Claims Services (Personal & Commercial)

Commercial Insurance / CUS & GU

Communications, SE & Road Safety

Driver Licensing Policy & Standards

Insurance & DL Contact Centres / BEU / Ins.

Op Support / Ins. Procedures & Bus. Change

Insurance Product Services

Insurance Sales & Distribution

Insurance Strategy & Pricing

Insurance Underwriting

Procurement Operations

Vehicle Registration Programs / Specialty

Vehicle Registration Services