

ONTARIO AND QUÉBEC MANDATORY HEAVY TRUCK SPEED LIMITERS FACT SHEET

Electronically limiting truck speeds will promote a cleaner environment, safer roads and a stronger economy in Ontario and Québec.

Starting January 1, 2009, most large trucks driven in Ontario and Québec – regardless of where they are licensed – will be required to use electronic speed limiters that cap their speed to a maximum of 105 kilometres per hour.

WHAT ARE SPEED LIMITERS?

A speed limiter is an electronic device that connects to a truck's diesel engine and limits fuel injection when the truck reaches a pre-set speed. The speed can be set by the manufacturer, dealer, mechanic or owner using a portable electronic tool. A speed limiter is a standard feature that has been built into electronically controlled truck engines since the early 1990's.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF SPEED LIMITERS?

Speed limiters offer economic, environmental and safety benefits. In response to the many benefits of speed limiters, several transportation companies have already limited their trucks' speed to 105 km/h or less.

- **Economic:** A 2007 study by Transport Canada, a department of the Canadian government, estimated that setting truck speed limiters at 105 km/h on all commercial trucks in Ontario and Québec would save close to 150 million litres of diesel fuel each year.
- **Environmental:** According to the study, speed limiters would save the equivalent of 410,000 tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions annual in Ontario and Québec.
- **Safety:** The study found that speed limiters set at 105 km/h increase safety in uncongested traffic. According to the Canada Safety Council, the speed of trucks plays a role in the severity of crashes and the incidence of fatalities.

WHAT VEHICLES WILL BE REQUIRED TO ACTIVATE SPEED LIMITERS?

- Commercial trucks assembled in or after 1995, equipped with a speed limiter and with a gross vehicle weight rating of 11,794 kg (26,000 lb) and more.
- Refer to the legislation and regulations of each province for specific requirements (see below for links)

WHAT VEHICLES WILL NOT BE REQUIRED TO ACTIVATE SPEED LIMITERS?

- buses, emergency vehicles, recreational vehicles and other specialized vehicles

WHAT PENALTIES COULD OFFENDERS FACE?

The minimum fine for not activating the speed limiter will be \$250 in Ontario and \$350 in Québec. The offence will also affect the safety rating of the vehicle owner or operator. In addition, the driver could be ticketed for speeding.

A portable electronic testing unit can be used to access the vehicle engine programming data and confirm if the limiter has been activated at a speed of 105 km/h or less.

WHAT HAPPENS IN THE FIRST SIX MONTHS?

From January to June 2009, carriers will not be fined. This transition period is designed to give carriers, particularly those from outside Ontario and Québec, time to comply.

There will be an awareness campaign in Ontario, Québec and other North American jurisdictions to reach owners and operators of the affected vehicles.

WHERE CAN I FIND OUT MORE?

To learn more about speed limiters and how to comply with the new legislation, please contact:

In Ontario:

Mr. Mike Dodds
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905 704-2787
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Website links:

http://www.e-laws.gov.on.ca/html/statutes/english/elaws_statutes_90h08_e.htm#s68p1s1

Or

http://www.e-laws.gov.on.ca/html/regs/english/elaws_regs_900587_e.htm

In Quebec:

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Website link:

<http://www.mtq.gouv.qc.ca/>