

3.0 National Safety Code

Introduction

Canadian National Safety Code (NSC) standards have been adopted by each province and territory in Canada, which allows for consistency of standards. Each of the 15 standards listed below apply to operators of regulated vehicles in Manitoba.

For more information on the National Safety Code, visit the Canadian Council of Motor Transport Administrators website at www.ccmta.ca. From this website, you can download the standards for free (in PDF format).

NSC Standard 1 - Single Driver Licence Concept

No driver may hold more than one licence or be licensed in more than one jurisdiction. All driving infractions are assigned to a single licence and record.

NSC Standard 2 - Knowledge and Performance Tests (Drivers)

This standard sets out the process for standardized testing of commercial drivers and includes the criteria for both written and road tests.

NSC Standard 3 - Driver Examiner Training Program

This standard is designed to ensure consistent qualifications and curriculum for driver examiners in all jurisdictions.

NSC Standard 4 - Classified Driver Licensing System

This standard is intended to ensure uniformity in the classification and endorsement system for drivers' licences, and to ensure that a licence issued in one jurisdiction is recognized in all jurisdictions.

NSC Standard 5 - Self-Certification Standards and Procedures

This standard outlines the criteria which must be met to permit carriers and driver training schools to assess and license commercial drivers.

NSC Standard 6 - Medical Standards for Drivers

All commercial drivers must undergo a medical examination at the time of licence application and at recommended periodic intervals. This standard is a guide to establish basic minimum medical qualifications to be utilized by physicians, licensing administrators and medical review boards to assess an individual's ability to operate a motor vehicle.

NSC Standard 7 - Carrier and Driver Profiles

This standard establishes the requirements for each jurisdiction to oversee the safety records of the carriers in their jurisdiction. In Manitoba, this is Permits & Approvals. It allows for inter-jurisdictional exchange of information and implies a coordination of carrier operations. For more information, refer to the section on Carrier Profiles.

NSC Standard 8 - Short-Term Suspension

This standard describes the criteria for placing a driver out of service on a short-term (24-hour) basis when a peace officer has reasonable and probable grounds to believe the driver's ability is affected by alcohol or drugs.

NSC Standard 9 - Hours of Service

This section establishes the basic criteria for hours of service legislation in all federal, provincial and territorial jurisdictions.

NSC Standard 10 – Cargo Securement

This standard establishes the criteria for cargo securement requirements.

NSC Standard 11 - Commercial Vehicle Maintenance and Inspection (PMVI)

This standard provides guidelines for a minimum acceptable level of safety and mechanical performance for commercial vehicles. It ensures that all operators of commercial vehicles (whether owned or leased) have a program of regular vehicle maintenance and servicing for all vehicles under their control.

NSC Standard 12 - Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance On-Road Inspections

A commercial vehicle may be subjected to a roadside inspection at any time by peace officers and police officers who hold CVSA certification. CVSA inspection criteria are prescribed and are consistent across North America.

The inspector may check driver and vehicle documentation and may inspect the vehicle's safety components. If the driver's documents or the vehicle's condition are not acceptable, the driver, the vehicle, or both, may be placed out of service.

NSC Standard 13 - Trip Inspection

Vehicles must be inspected regularly by drivers and any defects found must be reported and repaired. This ensures early identification of vehicle problems and defects to help prevent breakdowns and accidents.

NSC Standard 14 – Safety Rating

This standard applies in conjunction with Standard 7 Carrier Profiles. The safety performance of the carrier's vehicles and drivers is monitored, and a safety rating is assigned accordingly. For more information, refer to the section on Carrier Profiles.

NSC Standard 15 - Facility Audit

This standard establishes the audit procedures used by jurisdictions to determine a motor carrier's level of compliance with all applicable safety standards. For more information, refer to section 5.0 Facility Audits and Investigations.
