



SUBJECT: Boat, Horse, Snowmobile, Automobile and Motorcycle Trailers

Managers, Victoria	Passenger Transportation Board	Commercial Transport Insp.
Regional CVSE Managers	Trucking Industry	(Inspection Stations)
Area Vehicle Inspectors	Carrier Safety Inspectors	ICBC
Deputy Director, CVSE	Government Agents	

PURPOSE OF CIRCULAR

To advise that boat, horse, snowmobile, automobile or motorcycle trailers over 1,400 kg GVW used for non-business purposes are not automatically subject to commercial vehicle licensing and related safety programs if prizes are offered at events where the trailers have transported horses, boats or motor vehicles.

BACKGROUND

There are differing interpretations of whether prizes, no matter how small the prize or how unlikely the chance of winning, constitute financial gain and business purposes under the *Commercial Transport Act* (CTA).

As a result, owners of boat, horse, snowmobile, automobile or motorcycle trailers over 1,400 kg GVW used exclusively for recreation, amateur competitions, or hobbyist gatherings where a prize may be won have been required to license their trailer as a commercial trailer under the CTA and increase the weight of the towing motor vehicle to include that trailer. This unnecessarily draws a range of recreation, sport and other hobbyists with trailers into commercial vehicle safety programs.

Effective immediately, Commercial Vehicle Safety and Enforcement’s position is that paragraph (c) of the definition of “trailer” in section 1 of the CTA describes trailers used exclusively for travel to or from recreational, amateur sporting or hobbyist pursuits, even if there is a potential for cash or other prizes, provided that the owner or operator of the trailer is not being specifically compensated for advertising on the trailer.

The promotion of a business, product or service by paid advertising displayed on the trailer is a business purpose and constitutes a financial gain, such that the trailer is a “trailer” within the meaning of the s. 1 definition.

Non-commercial boat, horse, snowmobile, automobile or motorcycle trailers over 1,400 kg GVW used for non-business purposes are licensed as a “utility trailer” and may display the smaller 5” x 8” number plate.

Note that the licensed GVW of a truck towing a trailer is required to include the weight of both the commercial motor vehicle and commercial trailer, but it is not required to include the weight of a “utility trailer”.

For information about this notice, please contact Jeffrey Monty, Manager Commercial Transport, at 250-953-4017 or by email at Jeff.Monty@gov.bc.ca

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