

# Mandatory Emergency Equipment in NSC Vehicles

The regulated requirements for basic emergency equipment that must be carried on commercial vehicles at Alberta-based carriers

## Introduction

Commercial vehicles are required to carry emergency equipment. This equipment varies based on the type of vehicle, what it is hauling, and where it is operating. As a result, it can be confusing to understand minimum requirements; this bulletin is meant to assist by specifically listing the minimum requirements for this equipment for Alberta-based companies that may operate in Canada and/or the US.

Since the specific equipment requirements vary, you can contact AMTA for more help tailored to the vehicles on your fleet and your unique operations.



## What is emergency equipment?

Before the specific items are listed, we will explain what we mean by the term “emergency equipment”. For the purpose of this bulletin, emergency equipment refers to portable items like fire extinguishers, first aid kits, and reflective warning devices that can be loaded or mounted in a vehicle. We are not discussing emergency equipment that is built into a vehicle, such as occupant restraints and positive air shut off devices.

## Canadian operations

Alberta’s transportation safety legislation (section 4 of the [Commercial Vehicle Safety Regulation](#)) requires, at a minimum, commercial vehicles to carry at least two advance warning triangles for when stopped on a highway unless they are a school bus (school buses must carry three). Buses and school buses also have specific requirements for fire extinguishers and first aid kits under these same laws (section 17 of the above regulation). Carrier that haul certain types and quantities of dangerous goods in Canada must also carry fire extinguishers in accordance with the [Transportation of Dangerous Goods Regulations](#) [2]\*.

Trucks also have first aid kit requirements. Part 11 of Alberta’s [Occupational Health and Safety Code](#) [3] and Part XVI of Canada’s [Occupational Health and Safety Regulations](#) [4] both contain requirements for first aid kits at work sites; carriers need to consult this material to determine what type of first aid kits they need in their vehicles.

Since the provincial and federal regulations both contain similar requirements, provincial and federal carriers in Alberta both have first aid kit requirements to meet with their vehicles that are separate from what is contained in the transportation-specific legislation.

## US operations

Carriers that operate in the US must meet US regulations for emergency equipment in their vehicles. The minimum requirements can be found in section 393.95 of the [Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations](#) (FMCSRs) [5] which can be summarized as a fire extinguisher (there are different types for whether the vehicle is carrying dangerous goods or not), spare fuses, and warning devices for when stopped on a highway. The vehicles should also continue to carry the necessary first aid kits as per the appropriate Canadian OHS legislation when operating in the US.

## Other considerations

This bulletin presents minimum requirements for general vehicles only. The spirit of these regulations is to ensure drivers are prepared for basic emergencies that may occur over the course of their work.

Commercial vehicles should carry additional emergency equipment to protect the driver, other workers, and any passengers. For example, food and water should be carried along with weather-appropriate clothing to protect people in the event the vehicle breaks down and the occupants are stranded until help can arrive. The staff at the AMTA are able to provide specific guidance in this area; feel free to contact Workplace Support Services at [wss@amta.ca](mailto:wss@amta.ca) for more help.

## Need help? Contact AMTA

AMTA can provide carriers with guidance on the information presented in this bulletin. If you have any questions, please contact AMTA and our experienced staff will be happy to help. For your safety and compliance questions, please email Workplace Support Services (WSS) directly at [wss@amta.ca](mailto:wss@amta.ca).

For more updates like this on a variety of topics related to the transportation industry, please [sign up for our eNews](#).

## References

- 1 – Province of Alberta. Commercial Vehicle Safety Regulation, AR 121/2009. Current as of December 1st, 2022. Accessed May 11th, 2023, from [https://kings-printer.alberta.ca/documents/Regs/2009\\_121.pdf](https://kings-printer.alberta.ca/documents/Regs/2009_121.pdf)
- 2 – Government of Canada. Transportation of Dangerous Goods Regulations, SOR/2001-286. Current as of April 20th, 2023. Accessed May 11th, 2023, from <https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/regulations/sor-2001-286/FullText.html>
- \* - The specific reference for fire extinguishers is challenging to find. It is in section 7.1 of CSA Standard B621, and B621 is adopted through reference in section 5.14(1)(a)(ii) of the Transportation of Dangerous Goods Regulations.
- 3 – Province of Alberta. Occupational Health and Safety Code, AR 191/2021. Current as of March 31st, 2023. Accessed May 11th, 2023, from [https://kings-printer.alberta.ca/documents/OHS/OHSCCode\\_March\\_2023.pdf](https://kings-printer.alberta.ca/documents/OHS/OHSCCode_March_2023.pdf)
- 4 – Government of Canada. Canada Occupational Health and Safety Regulations, SOR/86-304. Current as of April 20th, 2023. Accessed May 11th, 2023, from <https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/regulations/sor-86-304/FullText.html>
- 5 – National Archives Code of Federal Regulations. “§ 393.95 Emergency equipment on all power units.” Current as of May 9th, 2023. Accessed May 11th, 2023, from <https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-49/subtitle-B/chapter-III/subchapter-B/part-393/subpart-H/section-393.95>