

Safety Fitness Certificates in Alberta:

Updated Processes for Applications and Renewals

Background

A Safety Fitness Certificate (SFC) is a document required in the Province of Alberta for the operation of commercial vehicles [1]. In fact, all provinces require carriers to obtain an SFC to operate commercial vehicles, and if the carrier's vehicles are operating in multiple provinces and/or states they become a Federally-regulated carrier. For Federally-regulated carriers, the SFC from their home province is recognised by other provinces under the authority of the Motor Vehicle Transport Act [2].



In 2022, the application process for SFCs changed in Alberta; the Province has also clarified the SFC renewal process for existing carriers. In this Alberta Motor Transport Association (AMTA) bulletin, these processes will be explained and links will be provided so carriers can find true and accurate information to guide their operations.

Applying for a Safety Fitness Certificate

To apply for a Safety Fitness Certificate (SFC), an individual or company wanting to operate a commercial vehicle needs to identify the registered gross weight or manufacturer's seating capacity of their vehicle(s) and where they will be operating the vehicle(s). An SFC is needed for:

- A vehicle or combination of vehicles (trucks and trailers) registered for 11,794 kg or more that operate only in Alberta.
- A vehicle or combination of vehicles (trucks and trailers) registered for 4,501 kg or more that operate over Alberta's borders.
 - This means operations inside and outside of Alberta, even if Alberta is the only province of operation but the carrier operates in the USA.
- A vehicle with a manufacturer's seating capacity of 11 people or more (including the driver) that is used for transporting passengers.

Once an individual or organisation is aware that they need an SFC, they will have to go through the Pre-Entry Program [3]:

1. Complete the free, online [Safety Fitness Certificate Compliance Course](#)
2. Register the commercial vehicle
3. Apply for the SFC through the [online portal](#).
4. Take the SFC Compliance Knowledge test from an Alberta registry office
5. Receive the SFC
6. Undertake and pass a New Carrier Compliance review within 9-12 months of operations

Once this process has been complete and the carrier has an SFC, the carrier must now renew their SFC every three years. The SFC will be issued with an expiration date.

Renewing an Existing Safety Fitness Certificate

Alberta Safety Fitness Certificates (SFCs) are no longer continuously valid. SFCs that were issued before February 28th, 2019 – or ones that show the word “Continuous” on them – will expire on June 28th, 2022 [1].

If the SFC was issued starting March 1st, 2019, it will include an expiration date on it. This is self-explanatory and indicates the date by which the SFC needs to be renewed.

To renew an SFC, a carrier must complete an online [Safety Fitness Certificate Renewal Application](#). If a carrier misses the deadline on their SFC or misses the June 28th, 2022 deadline if their SFC was issued before March 1st, 2019, they will have to re-apply for an SFC through the Pre-Entry Program as if they are a new carrier [1]. Expired or absent SFCs can also result in severe consequences during a roadside inspection.

Change to the Renewal Date

In February of 2022, the Government of Alberta announced the June 28th, 2022 deadline; the original deadline for renewals was February 28th, 2022. This change was announced very close to the February 28th deadline, so this bulletin was updated and reflects this change.

Summary

While new carriers in Alberta are likely aware of the 3-year Safety Fitness Certificate lifespan, long-standing carriers may be unaware of the June 28th, 2022 deadline (previously, the February 28th, 2022 deadline). It is best to renew early to avoid the potential backlog of last-minute applications.

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

References

- 1 – “Safety Fitness Certificate”, Government of Alberta, accessed February 28th, 2022, <https://www.alberta.ca/safety-fitness-certificate.aspx#:~:text=Renewing%20An%20SFC>
- 2 – “Extra-Provincial Motor Carrier Safety”, Motor Vehicle Transport Act, Government of Canada, accessed February 28th, 2022, <https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/m-12.01/page-1.html#h-353838>
- 3 – “Pre-entry requirements – Commercial carriers”, Government of Alberta, accessed February 28th, 2022, <https://www.alberta.ca/pre-entry-requirements-commercial-carriers.aspx>