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OCTOBER 23, 2025



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COMPLIANCE CORNER: STAYING AHEAD OF THE CURVE IN TRUCKING REGULATIONS

In today's fast-paced transportation industry, compliance isn't just a checkbox—it's the foundation of a sustainable and successful operation. As rules and regulations continue to evolve across both Canadian and U.S. jurisdictions, it's crucial for carriers to stay informed and proactive.

One of the most common compliance pitfalls involves Hours of Service (HOS) tracking. With enforcement of ELD mandates firmly in place, both federal and provincial inspectors are cracking down on violations. Make sure your drivers are not only logging accurately but also fully understand the rules around rest breaks, daily limits, and reset periods.

Vehicle maintenance and daily inspections remain another critical area. CVOR points can add up quickly due to minor oversights—something as simple as a cracked light cover or low tire tread can lead to costly penalties. Implementing robust pre-trip and post-trip inspection protocols and documenting repairs promptly can save your company from major headaches down the road.

Lastly, don't overlook the importance of keeping driver files, insurance certificates, and safety policies up to date. Audits are becoming more frequent, and digital systems make it easier than ever for authorities to request and review documentation. A well-organized compliance program reflects a culture of safety—and that goes a long way with clients and regulators alike.

Remember: in trucking, your compliance record is your reputation. Protect it, maintain it, and lead with safety first.



NAVIGATING UNCERTAINTY: CANADA'S TRANSPORTATION INDUSTRY OUTLOOK AMID TRADE TURBULENCE

As Canada rides the tailwinds of a recovering freight cycle, the nation's road and trucking industries are poised for moderate growth in 2025, supported by steady demand and slowly expanding capacity. Yet, beneath this optimism lies a layer of uncertainty—woven from shifting geopolitics and evolving trade dynamics, especially with the U.S.

Border tensions, sparked by escalating U.S. tariffs—25% on Canadian steel and autos, plus a looming 35% levy effective August 1—are injecting volatility into cross-border freight. Canadian logistics providers report rising costs, border delays, and uncertain freight rates as importers and exporters scramble to adjust. According to a recent KPMG survey, 77% of Canadian transportation firms expect to feel the impact of tariff-driven disruption—facing cost pressures and customer loss unless they diversify supply chains.

Still, resilience shines through: carriers are conducting strategic operational reviews, strengthening freight-forwarding partnerships, and leveraging bonded warehousing in Toronto, Montreal, and Vancouver to buffer tariff-related cash flow issues. Meanwhile, the federal One Canadian Economy Act—enacted just June 26—aims to remove interprovincial trade barriers and fast-track infrastructure projects, potentially easing domestic transport constraints.

Looking forward, the industry will closely watch U.S.–Canada trade talks slated by the end of July. A breakthrough could reduce tariffs, stabilize rate structures, and reinvigorate border freight. But if negotiations falter, expect continued cost volatility and pressure on profit margins.

Outlook snapshot: Canada's trucking sector enters 2025 on solid footing—but trade headwinds demand agility. Those prepared to pivot—through route diversification, local sourcing, and proactive policy monitoring—will likely emerge stronger in the next trade cycle.

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