Canadian Exemption for Carriers Amid COVID-19 Crisis

Under the Essential Freight Transport Exemption, truck drivers providing essential supplies and equipment for COVID-19-related emergency relief are now exempt from Canada’s hours-of-service (HOS) regulations. The exemption applies to carriers in all provinces and territories transporting the following:

- Medical supplies and equipment related to the testing, diagnosis, and treatment of COVID-19
- Supplies and equipment necessary for community safety, sanitation, and prevention of community transmission of COVID-19, such as masks, gloves, hand sanitizer, soap, and disinfectants
- Food, paper products, and other groceries for emergency restocking of distribution centres or stores
- Raw materials, such as paper, plastic, or alcohol required for essential items
- Fuel

To fully comply with the exemption, affected carriers and drivers must abide by several guidelines.

**For carriers:**

- Notify the provincial HOS director in the carrier’s base jurisdiction
- Provide the director with a list of vehicles, drivers, and their driver's licence information
- Ensure that drivers are not fatigued while transporting goods

**For drivers:**

- Take at least 24 consecutive hours off duty in every 14-day period
- Have 10 consecutive hours off duty after delivering essential cargo
- Maintain daily logs and records

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