



Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance

Improving uniformity in commercial motor vehicle safety and enforcement

December 12, 2017

Brandye Hendrickson
Acting Administrator
Federal Highway Administration
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Administrator Hendrickson,

On behalf of the Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance (CVSA), I am writing ask for clarification and guidance on the definition of a 'non-divisible load' regarding the transport of transformers containing fluid. CVSA is a nonprofit association comprised of local, state, provincial, territorial and federal commercial motor vehicle safety officials and industry representatives. The Alliance aims to achieve uniformity, compatibility and reciprocity of commercial motor vehicle inspections and enforcement by certified inspectors dedicated to driver and vehicle safety. Our mission is to improve commercial motor vehicle safety and uniformity throughout the United States, Canada and Mexico by providing guidance and education to enforcement, industry and policy makers.

At the 2017 CVSA Annual Conference and Exhibition, the CVSA Size and Weight Committee met and discussed the practice of transporting transformers containing fluid. From the discussion, we learned that there are currently inconsistent practices across North America related to the issuance of special permits to transporters who are transporting transformers. Some states will not allow transformers containing fluid to obtain a special permit while some states will allow a special permit to be issued.

This inconsistency is causing various issues for industry, as motor carriers must be aware of the varying special permit practices and design a route that will allow them to transport the transformers containing fluid. This is impractical and results in an inefficient use of the nation's roadways, as well as hindering uniform enforcement from state to state. CVSA requests that the Federal Highway Administration issue guidance clarifying whether or not transformers containing fluid constitute a 'non-divisible load'. This will help achieve uniformity in how the necessary special permits are issued state to state.

CVSA works to closely monitor, evaluate and identify potentially unsafe transportation processes and procedures as well as to help facilitate and implement best practices for enhancing safety on our highways. Commercial motor vehicle safety continues to be a challenge and we need the involvement of all affected parties to help us better understand these issues and put into place practical solutions.

We appreciate the agency's commitment to safety and stakeholder involvement. If you have further questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact me by phone at 301-830-6149 or via email at collinm@cvsa.org.

Respectfully,

Collin B. Mooney, MPA, CAE
Executive Director
Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance