



Effects of Changing Operating Status

Alberta carriers that change their Operating Status (OS) from “Provincial” to “Federal” must comply with the changes in regulatory requirements. A summary of the relevant changes are outlined in the following table.

IMPORTANT – Carriers with a “Provincial” operating status cannot operate outside of Alberta. Provincial carriers that are found to be operating outside the province could be subject to discipline and/or have their vehicle detained at roadside and may have their operating status changed to “Federal” by Alberta Transportation.

Regulatory Requirements	“Federal” Operating Status	“Provincial” Operating Status
Requirement to have a Safety Fitness Certificate (SFC)	Applies when a person or company operates or plans to operate outside of Alberta using at least one vehicle registered with a gross vehicle weight in excess of 4,500 kilograms (including farm-plated vehicles), or a vehicle(s) with an originally designed seating capacity of 11 persons or more (including the driver). * No exemptions	Applies when a person or company operates solely in Alberta with one or more vehicles registered with a gross vehicle weight of 11,794 kilograms or more, or a vehicle(s) with an originally designed seating capacity of 11 persons or more (including the driver). * Farm-plated vehicle(s) operated solely within Alberta for conducting their own farm operation are exempt from the requirement of obtaining a Safety Fitness Certificate.
Have and implement a written safety program that meets regulatory requirements	Safety plan must apply to the employees/drivers of vehicles registered in excess of 4,500 kilograms, or a vehicle(s) with an originally designed seating capacity of 11 persons or more (including the driver).	Safety plan must apply to the employees/drivers of commercial vehicles registered with a gross vehicle weight of 11,794 kilograms or greater, or a vehicle(s) with an originally designed seating capacity of 11 persons or more (including the driver).
Driver files to contain at least the information required by regulation	Requirement applies to all full and part time drivers of vehicles registered in excess of 4,500 kilograms, or a vehicle(s) with an originally designed seating capacity of 11 persons or more (including the driver).	Requirement applies to all full and part time drivers of vehicles registered with a gross vehicle weight of 11,794 kilograms or greater, or a vehicle(s) with an originally designed seating capacity of 11 persons or more (including the driver).
Have and implement a written maintenance program that meets regulatory requirements	Applies to a person or company that have or are required to have an SFC (see row 1). Maintenance program applies to a vehicle(s) registered in excess of 4,500 kilograms, or a vehicle(s) with an originally designed seating capacity of 11 persons or more (including the driver).	Applies to a person or company that have or are required to have an SFC (see row 1). Requirement applies to all full and part time drivers of vehicles registered with a gross vehicle weight of 11,794 kilograms or greater, or a vehicle(s) with an originally designed seating capacity of 11 persons or more (including the driver).
Comply with drivers’ hours of service regulations * There are major differences between the federal and provincial regulations. *Carriers and drivers must comply with the appropriate regulation at all times.	Applies to drivers operating a vehicle registered in excess of 4,500 kilograms, or a vehicle(s) with an originally designed seating capacity of 11 persons or more (including the driver), even while operating point to point within Alberta. <i>Federal legislation:</i> https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/PDF/SOR-2005-313.pdf * It is critical that carriers and drivers understand the differences between federal and provincial regulations prior to considering operating outside of Alberta, as it may have a <u>major</u> impact on their operations.	Applies to drivers operating a vehicle registered for 11,794 kilograms or greater when operating beyond a 160 kilometre radius of the home terminal, or a vehicle(s) with an originally designed seating capacity of 11 persons or more (including the driver). <i>Provincial legislation:</i> https://www.qp.alberta.ca/documents/Regs/2002_317.pdf

For more information on Operating Status, visit our website at www.alberta.ca/commercial-carrier-operating-status.aspx or review our Education Manual at www.alberta.ca/education-manual-for-commercial-carriers.aspx.