

SPEED LIMITER CONTROL MEASURE

Since January 1, 2009, speed limiters must be set at a speed of 105 km/h (65 mi/h) or less on most heavy trucks being operated in Québec and Ontario. A six-month transition period was provided to allow the industry to meet the new requirement.

In Québec, a penal provision came into force on July 1, 2009. Offenders face a fine of \$350 to \$1,050. The vehicles subject to this new requirement are trucks and equipment transport vehicles assembled after December 31, 1994 (motor vehicles), equipped with a factory-installed speed limiter and having a gross vehicle weight rating (GVWR) of 11,794 kg (26,000 lb) or over.

Contrôle routier Québec and the Québec Ministère des Transports want to remind operators of the affected vehicles that control measures have been in place since the beginning of July to ensure compliance with the new requirement. This is also true in Ontario. To meet the requirement, vehicle operators must ensure that the data entered in the motor's electronic control module (ECM) for limiting vehicle speed (parameter 74) and for governor speed (parameter 87) are set at 105 km/h or less.

The speed limiter's activation on heavy vehicles will be monitored by using existing speed control methods to identify heavy vehicles being driven at more than 105 km/h. Furthermore, using a portable electronic testing unit connected to a port located inside the truck's cab, highway controllers will be able to access motor data to determine whether the speed limiter has been set at a speed of 105 km/h or less.

To carry out a check, highway controllers use a device that allows them to read some of the motor's ECM data. A report is then produced. It is important to mention that the main function of the device used to do the check is to read information from the ECM. No information can be modified as the device's capabilities are read-only, and it does not interact with the ECM. The device is used solely to check data related to the speed limiter.

Highway controllers have the authority to perform these checks and have received appropriate training. Inquiries were addressed to the major motor manufacturers, and they have not issued any restrictions on to the use of these devices.

The control measures have been gradually implemented. From July 1 to July 31, 2009, a warning was given to operators who were not complying with the new requirement. As of August 1, a notice of violation is issued where it is found that an operator is not complying with the new requirement. In that case, the offender must immediately do what is necessary to be in compliance as quickly as possible. In the event that a subsequent verification reveals that the operator has still not set the vehicle's speed limiter at 105 km/h or less, another notice of violation will be issued, and the operator will have to do what is necessary to be in compliance on the spot. Otherwise, the vehicle may be towed.

It is important to remember that the aim of this measure is to improve the environment and make the highway system safer while reducing the operating costs of carriers.

For more information:

- see the Ministère des Transports's website at:
www.mtq.gouv.qc.ca/portal/page/portal/entreprises/camionnage/limitateurs_vitesse;
- contact the Ministère des Transports by dialling:
511 (in Québec)
1 888 355-0511 (elsewhere in North America).

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