



Task Force on Vehicle Weights and Dimensions Policy

Nova Scotia Update - 2025

Introduction / Contact

Brent Connolly P.Eng. | Director, Vehicle Transportation Inspection

Department of Public Works

1672 Granville St

Halifax, NS B3J 3Z8

1(902)221-8094

Brent.Connolly@novascotia.ca

Steven MacQuarrie, P.Eng. | Vehicle Standards Engineer

Department of Public Works

1672 Granville St

Halifax, NS B3J 3Z8

(902) 943-0232

Steven.macquarrie@novascotia.ca

Traffic Safety Act:

Nova Scotia introduced a new Traffic Safety Act on **Sept. 23** to make it easier and faster to modernize road rules and improve safety.

- Simplifies administration for quicker updates
- Replaces 2018 act that was too complex to implement
- Prioritizes safety for all Nova Scotians
- Proclamation expected in early 2026

Learn more: novascotia.ca/tsa

Registry of Motor Vehicles Modernization

Multi-year initiative started to replace aging IT infrastructure in support of the Registry



\$50+M budget



Major IT restructure of core systems related to drivers and vehicles



Will provide modern services to meet the needs of Nova Scotians and support future legislative changes



Current system decades old, with last major update in 2007

Registry of Motor Vehicles Modernization

Speeding Up **Special Move Permits** in Nova Scotia

- **Challenge:** Current system for oversized/overweight trucking permits is outdated and slow; only ~⅓ of applications processed online.
- **Impact:** ~15,000 permits issued annually to protect safety and infrastructure; delays affect delivery of essential goods.
- **Solution:** RMV Modernization Team adopted a **user-first service design approach**:
 - Researched pain points, legislation, and best practices.
 - Built and tested a **prototype** with diverse carriers.
- **Results:** New system will be **intuitive, faster, and reduces manual steps**, enabling correct applications on first attempt. New system anticipated to launch early 2026 in controlled releases.

Read more: [Time is Money: Speeding Up Permit Process for Trucking Companies](#)

Vehicle Reciprocity Program

Nova Scotia Removes More Interprovincial Trade Barriers

- **Goal:** Strengthen economy and promote free trade across Canada.
- **Key Changes:**
 - **Vehicle Access:** New regulations allow more commercial trucks and passenger vehicles from other provinces to operate in Nova Scotia.
- **Impact:**
 - Allows flexibility for vehicles not covered by existing weight and dimensions regulations
 - Allows for movement of divisible loads
 - Positions Nova Scotia as a leader in removing trade barriers.

Vehicle Reciprocity Program

Interim Recognition of Canadian Jurisdiction Vehicle Registration

Effective: June 3, 2025

Purpose: Allow vehicle types permitted in other Canadian jurisdictions to operate in Nova Scotia even when not a recognized configuration.

Key Provisions:

Eligibility: Registrar may register vehicles if:

- Already registered in another Canadian jurisdiction, or
- Eligible for registration in another Canadian jurisdiction.

Commercial Vehicles: Can operate if:

- Legal under another province's rules,
- Complies with Nova Scotia regulations,
- Operator provides proof of registration and any special conditions.

Compliance: All vehicles must meet Nova Scotia's Motor Vehicle Act requirements.

Registrar Authority: Can impose special conditions and cancel registration for violations.

Exclusions: Vehicles not compliant with the Police Identity Management Act cannot be registered. Weights, Dimensions and Routes subject to infrastructure limitations.

<https://novascotia.ca/Just/regulations/regs/mvinterimrecognition.htm>

Ongoing Pilot Programs in Nova Scotia:

- **60' Extended Semitrailer Pilot Program**
 - Established in 2020, min. 5-year duration
 - Annual Permits
 - Established routes and frequencies identified by carrier
 - Full guidelines available online:
<https://novascotia.ca/tran/trucking/ExtendedTrailerGuidelines.pdf>
- **LCV program**
- **Wide based tires allowed by permit**
- **Roll-Coupled Hitch Pilot for Category 5 Truck/Trailer combination**
- **Farm Combination Vehicle Pilot Program**
<https://novascotia.ca/tran/trucking/vehiclewghtsdims.asp>
- **ON-ESSAC via Vehicle Reciprocity Program (NEW)**

VWD Updates

MOU

- Increase the tractor steering axle weight limit from 5500 kg to 6000 kg
- Changes in the dimension limits for Stinger Steer Automobile or Boat Carrier

National Guidelines

- Tractor with Extended Length Semitrailer (Length > 16.2 m)
- Extended Length Stinger Steer Automobile or Boat Carrier (Up to 27.43 m)

All currently in place (by permit for ON-ESSAC and extended semitrailer)

Thank You