



Virginia Trucking Association

★ Special Alert ★

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UPDATE ON D.C. ENFORCEMENT OF TRUCK SIZE/WEIGHT LAWS

For many years the District of Columbia's size and weight laws have restricted combination vehicle lengths to 55', with allowances for trailers up to 48' on short sections of 295 and 395 only. Enforcement has been limited. On October 9, the VTA notified our members that the DC Dept. of Transportation (DDOT) will no longer allow vehicles exceeding these limits to travel in the District without a permit. The DDOT said it would begin an active enforcement campaign against the operation of 53-foot trailers without the proper permits in the District on October 19. An annual permit is \$85 per vehicle and comes with a metal tag that must be displayed on the tractor's front bumper. A one-time round-trip permit costs \$36. A flyer explaining further permitting details was sent out with the October 9 alert from the VTA and is available, upon request, from the VTA office (send an e-mail to dbennett@vatrucking.org)

The VTA has been communicating with the Maryland Motor Truck Association (MMTA) and ATA in a cooperative effort to address this issue and the difficulties it creates for our members trying to serve their customers located in the District. On October 23, MMTA and VMWA/VTA Safety Management Council member Mike Kerns of Security Storage Co. of Washington met with DDOT officials. The meeting underscored D.C.'s plans to exert more control over commercial vehicle traffic over the next 18 months:

- DC recently authorized 60 traffic control officers to enforce the vehicle length limits; there is no plan to relax the overall 55' length limit. Trucks travelling in the District are expected to obtain permits or get a \$50 ticket. Companies needing permits are encouraged to obtain them at DDOT's permit office, or else they will wait up to two weeks for the tags and be charged a mailing fee; call 202-442-4670 for an appointment.
- DC is developing a truck route map to ensure truck routes are clearly delineated. VTA will distribute a draft of the routes once available and will need comments back by 12/1/09 to forward to District officials.
- DC expects to restore its truck scales located on I-295 near Blue Plains to 24/7 operation by the end of the year.
- In compliance with the 2009 Loading Zone Improvement Act passed by the City Council, DDOT will soon issue a Curbside Loading Zone Management Plan with the goals of: increasing the number of loading zones citywide, enforcing loading zone time limits, extending the length of loading zones, and establishing a fee schedule and process for paying for the use of loading zones. The VTA will distribute a summary of the plan as soon as it is released.

DC's truck size and weight regulations are available upon request from the VTA office for your review. (send an e-mail to dbennett@vatrucking.org)

REMINDER: I-40 CLOSED IN NORTH CAROLINA NEAR TENNESSEE BORDER - Interstate 40 is closed at mile marker 2.6 in North Carolina, near the Tennessee state line because of a rockslide that occurred Sunday around 2:00 AM. A detour has been set up. Highway users traveling west to Tennessee should take I-40 West to I-240 in Asheville to I-26 West. Follow I-26 West from Asheville to I-81 South in Tennessee, back to I-40. Eastbound I-40 travelers should reverse the instructions. The I-40 detour adds 130 miles when traveling from NC to TN or TN to NC. FMCSA states that this is a known detour and carriers might have to adjust routes to be in compliance with Part 395 Drivers Hours of Service. For updates on the situation, contact the NCDOT Communications Office at (919) 733-2522.

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