



Ministry of  
Transportation  
and Infrastructure

COMPLIANCE CIRCULAR

NO. 02/22

November 08, 2022  
June 5th, 2024

**SUBJECT: Extension of Allowances for Hydro Vac Trucks with Front Mounted Hose Reels Under General Authorization and Letter of Authorization Trial.**

All CVSE Managers  
CVSE Inspectors

Passenger Transportation Branch  
Law Enforcement Agencies  
Deputy Director, CVSE

Trucking Industry  
Director, CVSE

**PURPOSE OF CIRCULAR**

To replace Circular No. 11/12 and advise that effective **February 1, 2023**, carriers seeking to operate hydro vac trucks with front mounted hose reels (inclusive of operating controls) between 1 m and 1.4 m front projection from the front bumper and not exceeding 13.5 m overall length must have a letter of authorization to obtain oversize permits as part of trial.

The allowances previously described in Circular No.11/12 for hydro vac trucks with front mounted hose reels up to 1m front projection from the front bumper and 13.5 m overall length to operate without a letter of authorization or permit remain unchanged.

**BACKGROUND**

Front-mounted hose reels are not specifically addressed in the Commercial Transport Regulations. They are not included in the definition of “permanently mounted equipment” (PME) and are not entitled to the allowance for additional weight for PME. Other provisions for front projection for devices that do not carry cargo<sup>1</sup> are insufficient for the dimensions of many front-mounted hose reels in their unaltered, factory-released state.

**GENERAL AUTHORIZATION**

To maintain pace with vehicle technologies and equipment additions that may not have been considered when legislation was enacted or revised, by general authority<sup>2</sup>, these vehicles may operate without permits at legal weights with a front projection of up to 1m from the front bumper and the overall length of the truck with the hose reel must not exceed 13.5m.



The driver’s clear sightlines to the highway must not be unduly obstructed by the hose reel, and the design and attachment of the hose reel must conform to the original equipment manufacturers (OEM) specifications, and not negatively impact road safety.

<sup>1</sup> Commercial Transport Regulations, section 7.08(2)(c)

<sup>2</sup> Commercial Transport Regulations, section 7.02(1)

## **LETTER OF AUTHORIZATION TO OBTAIN PERMITS**

Carriers seeking to operate hydro vac trucks with a front projection of 1m to a maximum of 1.4m, with an overall length of the truck with hose reel not exceeding 13.5m, may request a letter of authorization in order to obtain single trip or term oversize permits. These letters of authorizations will be issued as part of a trial. This trial has been **extended to July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026** while CVSE monitors the safety, performance, and quantity of these units.

Similar, to the general authority provided for front projection, hydro vac trucks operating under a letter of authorization must ensure the driver's clear sightlines to the highway are not unduly obstructed, the design and attachment of the hose reel must conform to the OEM specifications and does not negatively impact road safety.

To apply for a letter of authorization, please send the following information to [Commercial.Transport@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Commercial.Transport@gov.bc.ca) subject: **LOA request- Hose reel**

- Company or individual name
- Contact email
- Contact phone number
- Contact address
- Vehicle information:
  - Year
  - Make
  - Model
  - VIN
  - Plate#
  - Registration#
  - National Safety Code(NSC)#
- The Distance of projection from front bumper (Including controls)
- Overall vehicle length (Including controls and hose reel)

Enforcement is in effect for carriers without an LOA operating hydro vac truck with front mounted hose reels (inclusive of operating controls) between 1m and 1.4m front projection from the front bumper and not exceeding 13.5m overall length.

For additional information, please contact the Commercial Transport Department at (250) 953-4017 or email [Commercial.Transport@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Commercial.Transport@gov.bc.ca).

Yours truly,



Samantha Eburne  
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Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure