



Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board

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March 26, 2020

Motor Carrier Industry Participants

Dear Carriers:

RE: Transportation Services under the COVID-19 State of Emergency

The Board has received inquiries about the status of transportation services in the Province as a result of the recently declared COVID-19 State of Emergency. The questions received include whether transportation services are essential, whether they can continue, and what health related requirements apply to such services. This letter may provide some clarity on these issues.

Based on the most recent Order of Dr. Robert Strang, Chief Medical Officer of Health, dated March 25, 2020, transportation and public transit services provided by a municipal unit, or provided by a carrier which has contracted with a municipal unit, are exempt from the six-foot social distancing requirements and the five-person gathering limit. Section 11 of the Order provides:

11. In addition and for greater clarity, the social distancing [six-foot separation] requirements set out in Clause 7 and the 5-person [gathering] limit set out in Clause 8 do not apply to taxi service and the following municipal entities and their contractors:

- (i) Police and Fire Services
- (ii) Municipal Utilities such water, wastewater and stormwater
- (iii) Maintenance of utilities and municipal facilities
- (iv) Transportation
- (v) Road maintenance/repair
- (vi) Municipal ICT systems and services
- (vii) Public Transit

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However, regardless of s. 11 above, motor carriers may, if they wish, implement social distancing and five-person gathering limits if they feel it is appropriate to do so in their circumstances.

It is important to note that any other not-for-profit or for-profit business or organization, which is not a municipal unit nor contracted by a municipal unit, may operate, but must follow the six-foot social distancing requirement. If unable to do so, they must limit the number of customers or clients on its premises (including vehicles) to no more than five persons at a time.

The Board notes that the above requirements may change in the future depending upon further Orders or Directives by the Province. The Board also notes that there are specific provisions dealing with transportation across the Nova Scotia border. Any carrier having questions on the border issue should refer to Dr. Strang's Order, or contact the Board if necessary.

We trust the above provides some clarification of the Industry's requirements in the current State of Emergency.

Yours very truly,



Roland A. Deveau, Q.C.
Vice Chair

cc. Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal
Deputy Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal
Motor Carrier Division and Inspectors