

Changed B.C. Licensing Requirements for Forklifts

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New forklift insurance rules have taken effect February 1, 2009, for anyone who owns, leases, or rents a forklift in British Columbia and is required to insure it for road purposes. Under these rules, forklifts may no longer be licensed with Commercial plates. Division 24 of the Motor Vehicle Act Regulations has been amended to allow forklifts to be licensed with Restricted or Industrial (X) plates only, as forklifts do not meet commercial vehicle standards for unrestricted highway use.

There are three pieces that apply to this type of vehicle. The first is the bulletin for the changes. The second is the means for calculating the GVW. The third is the transaction process that includes all the items needed to complete the registration and insuring of the vehicle.

1) Bulletin for Changes

Forklifts Can No Longer Be Licensed with Commercial Plates – Restricted plates are now required if the forklift will be carrying a load on or across a highway. If the forklift will not be carrying a load on or across a highway, then you must license it with Industrial (X) plates.

New Policies from Your Insurance Broker - If you are renewing your policy for a forklift, your broker will require you to replace the Commercial plates as follows:

If the current term is still in force and you surrender the Commercial plates, then your broker will require you to process a free plate substitution transaction on the existing policy term, and a subsequent transaction renewing the license and insurance with the new plate. If you do not surrender the Commercial plates, then your broker will not allow you to renew. You will be required to surrender the plates, or obtain a police report and complete an MV1103 if the plates are lost or stolen.

If the current term is still in force and the previous term has expired and you surrender the Commercial plates, then your broker will process a free plate substitution with the renewal. If you do not surrender the Commercial plates, then your broker will process a plate replacement with the renewal, charging the \$18 plate fee.

Operating Restrictions - A Forklift Licensed with Industrial (X) Plates may operate unladen to and from a worksite.

It may not carry a load on a highway. A Forklift Licensed with a Restricted Plate, where highway operation is restricted, may operate across a highway or along the untravelled portions of a highway - Untravelled portion of a highway means the area that does not have a prepared surface, such as the ditch and the boulevard. It may also operate on traveled portions of a highway within 100 meters of the worksite. Traveled portion of a highway means the area of a highway that has a prepared surface for vehicle operation, including the shoulder when operated for farming, industrial use - including maintenance and landscaping and in designated areas which include private property (e.g. hotel, resort, marina), parking lots, campgrounds, airports, ferry terminals, and road crossings that connect parts of any one designated area. An *Operation Permit (MV1815)* is not required for a forklift licensed with a Restricted plate.

2) Means for Calculating the GVW

The calculation of the GVW is dependant upon usage (laden or unladen on roadway). For forklifts issued with Restricted plates, the calculation for licensed GVW is calculated as the greater of either:

1.5 X the net weight
(minimum licensed GVW)

OR

the total of all of the following:

- 1. the vehicle's net weight**
- 2. its equipment**
- 3. the heaviest load carried on the vehicle during the licensing term**

This should tell us that the GVW should be at least 1.5 times net weight or the total of the heaviest weight it would carry plus the net weight of the forklift plus any additional equipment. For forklifts issued with Industrial (X) plates, the net weight will be determined as the weight of the vehicle as per the plate on the vehicle or the document that comes with the vehicle. For both instances, if there is a plate attached to the vehicle with the weight, it must be sighted by the broker. If there is no stamp, plate or documentation to prove weight, then a



weigh scale certificate will have to be used.

3) The Transaction Process to Complete Registration and Insurance

Registering, Licensing and Insuring a Vehicle with a Restricted Plate - You will be required to provide proof of the following. A weigh scale certificate if the net weight is not on the forklift capacity plate or bills of sale. The owner will also be required to provide a proof of ownership with signature. If the forklift is new, a New Vehicle Information Statement, and a bill of sale from the manufacturer or dealer must be provided. If the forklift is used, a bill of sale to provide continuity of ownership is required.

ICBC is notifying customers with forklifts currently licensed with Commercial plates by letter or messages on the renewal reminder or owners certificate of insurance, vehicle license and registration. For renewals effective February 1, 2009 and later, their forklift Commercial plates must be surrendered and replaced with the appropriate plate type. Please contact your broker or ICBC agent for any questions you may have as there may be variances in requirements brought forth by your agent.

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