

Made-in-the-North Solution for Electronic Logging Devices

Mr. Speaker, enhancing road safety is a priority for the Government of the Northwest Territories. We all want our highways to be as safe as possible for everyone who uses them.

To support this effort, I would like to announce that as of June 1, 2023, the Hours of Service Regulations will be amended to make Electronic Logging Devices mandatory for commercial vehicles weighing 4,500 kilograms or more.

This is a Made-in-the-North solution that balances driver safety, the needs of our local industry, and compliance with federal requirements.

An Electronic Logging Device, or ELD, is a device that tracks a driver's Hours of Service instead of using a paper logbook. Hours of Service are the maximum amount of time commercial drivers can be on duty, including driving time.

The Government of Canada has mandated the use of ELDs, and all jurisdictions will implement and enforce this mandate in 2023. Commercial and regulated vehicle operators that require a logbook, as well as National Safety Code vehicles that cross provincial-territorial lines, are required to use ELDs.

Mr. Speaker, some may ask why ELDs have been made mandatory. This is about making our roads and highways safer. Because ELDs are a more efficient and accurate way for drivers to log working hours, they can help reduce driver fatigue, and with fewer tired drivers on our roads, we will prevent accidents and save lives.

ELDs automate the tracking, making it easier for drivers and commercial carriers to comply with the Hours of Service Regulations under the NWT's *Motor Vehicles Act*. It also allows territorial drivers to operate in other jurisdictions and earn a living while outside the territory.

Mr. Speaker, when making a major change to how an industry operates, it is important to engage with that industry. The GNWT held three stakeholder information sessions with the trucking industry to discuss the impacts of ELDs and address any concerns they may have. These sessions took place in August and November 2022, with a final session held in March 2023. The draft regulations were also posted for public comment from March 13 to April 13 on the GNWT's Have Your Say public engagement portal.

The stakeholder sessions showed that there is support for the use of ELDs in the Northwest Territories and started a discussion around the unique elements of the territory's commercial trucking industry.

As a result, the ELD regulations include exemptions specific to drivers in the NWT. If a driver operates within 160-kilometres of their home terminal and returns each day to that home terminal, they are not required to complete a logbook entry, and therefore do not require an ELD. Instead, carriers or owners must keep track of driver hours while working within the 160-kilometre radius. If a driver leaves the 160-kilometre radius at any time, they will require an ELD.

Additionally, commercial vehicles registered in the NWT that weigh under 11,795 kilograms and operate strictly within the territory are also ELD exempt. Drivers must still produce a logbook entry on request.

Any exemption that is given through the federal Act is also included in the territorial regulations. Other vehicles that do not require ELDs include, School buses – however, they will be required to use paper logs when the vehicle exits its 160-kilometre zone. Emergency

vehicles, such as police, ambulances and firetrucks; and Utility service vehicles for power and telecommunication companies.

Mr. Speaker, this Made-in-the-North approach to implementing the mandatory use of ELDs has allowed the trucking industry to provide its valuable input and make this transition easier for those directly impacted by this change.

Road safety is an issue that affects all Northerners. By implementing the Government of Canada's requirement for Electronic Logging Devices in commercial vehicles, the GNWT is contributing to enhanced road safety in the NWT and across Canada.

Quyananni, Mr. Speaker.