STA COVID-19 Update 24

News from Saskatchewan

Class 1 Testing

SGI Road Test for Class 1 and 3 licenses will resume April 20. This will be on a pilot basis for the first two days to ensure the effectiveness of the new process. Provided that goes well, a full schedule of road tests will begin April 22. There are several points to be aware of:

- Testing will take place in only Regina, Saskatoon, North Battleford, Prince Albert, Swift current, and Yorkton
- Each school will be issued one camera for testing purposes
- You will need to install camera in your truck. It will be pre-programmed
- PPE is being provided to training schools and can be picked up at the same time as camera equipment
- You are to prioritize the students you want tested first, due to backlogs and capacity
- Waiver forms are required to permit the use of video and to verify health status
- To schedule an appointment, the applicant’s information, modified road test agreement form and both waiver forms are needed at least 48 hours in advance
- SGI will provide compensation in the amount of $100 per road test you participate in

Please find the forms you will need below:
- Comprehensive Testing Plan for Class 1 and 3
- Modified Road Test Agreement
- SGI Release Waiver and Assumption of Risk Road Test—Instructor/Supervisor
- SGI Release Waiver and Assumption of Risk Road Test—Student/Test candidate

Spring Weight Restriction Exemption

From the Ministry of highways and Infrastructure:

Last year’s unfinished harvest and the rail disruption over the winter have had a significant impact on Saskatchewan’s agriculture sector. The state of emergency caused by COVID-19 has compounded the challenge.

In an effort to help, we have developed a streamlined approach to moving additional weights on roads
Based on discussions with SARM and the Ministry of Agriculture, priority goods that will be exempt include: **agricultural seed, grain, livestock, livestock feed, fertilizer, farm fuel, groceries, potable water delivery, household and industrial garbage pickup, and septic removal.** The secondary weights will be allowed only on roads that the RM determines can support additional weight. **Individual RMs will have the choice to participate in this exemption for priority goods.**

The ministry updates spring road orders twice each week and posts them on its website. The orders will list which highways and RM roads are allowing up to secondary weights. The list of priority goods and a map that shows which routes are allowing secondary weights will also be available. Routes will be determined in collaboration with local authorities based on local conditions. We will closely monitor roads where higher weight limits have been approved. If damage occurs, weight restrictions can be reapplied to ensure safety, and minimize the need for costly repairs.

To assist you in communicating with your members, please find attached some questions and answers.

**Commercial Medicals**

SGI originally provided a 3 month extension for March, April, May for **commercial** medicals. If the medical expires in that time frame and you are unable to complete the medical SGI is asking for you to call the Medical Review Department at SGI for a further extension. It looks like you most likely will get an extension until September but again they are asking individuals to call or email.

If you have questions about providing medical information by a certain date, such as a requirement to maintain your driver’s licence, **commercial** medicals, periodic medicals, or medical requests, call our Medical Review Unit at 1-844-855-2744 extension 6176 or email mruinquiries@sgi.sk.ca. Please provide your contact number in the email in case we can’t provide the information you are requesting by email.

**Updated NSC Process**

SGI has made updates to the NSC & Safety Fitness Certificate application process. The STA is pleased with the new process and believes it provides greater oversight of new carriers to Saskatchewan. First time applicants can find all the information they need, here, including the application form. Here, you will find a list of the requirements for carriers applying for an NSC and Safety Fitness Certificate.

**COVID-19 Financial Supports**

**Expanded Canadian Emergency Response Benefit**

Prime Minister, Justin Trudeau announced that the government is expanding CERB to better support Canadians. To help more Canadians benefit, the government will be changing eligibility rules to:

- Allow people to earn up to $1,000 per month while collecting the CERB; this would be for Canadians working in essential jobs who make less than they would if they received the benefit
- Extend the CERB to seasonal workers who have exhausted their EI regular benefits and are unable to undertake their usual seasonal work as a result of the COVID-19 outbreak.
- Extend the CERB to workers who recently exhausted their EI regular benefits and are unable to find a job or return to work because of COVID-19

**Canadian Emergency Business Account (CEBA)**

The Canadian Emergency Business Account is a $25 billion program that provides interest-free loans of up to
$40,000 to small businesses and not-for-profits to help cover operating costs during a time where revenues have been temporarily reduced due to COVID-19. Businesses that had payrolls last year between $20,000 and $1.5 million can now apply. The previously offered loans to businesses with a narrower range of payrolls, between $50,000 and $1 million. Businesses can contact their financial institutions to apply for these loans. There are a number of eligibility requirements for the CEBA. The STA encourages you to familiarize yourself with those requirements. Please click here to do so.

**Business Credit Availability Program**

BCAP will support access to financing for Canadian businesses in all sectors and regions. Through this program, Export Development Canada (EDC) and the Business Development Bank of Canada (BDC) will provide $65 billion in direct lending and other types of financial support. For additional information on any of the BCAP programs or to apply, Businesses should contact their primary lender, where they have a pre-existing relationship. Businesses that are impacted can contact them by phone or email to find out about their application process. Find more information, here.

**STA Food and Accommodation Guide**

The STA Food and Accommodation guide is picking up traction around the Province. A Big shoutout to Tourism SK and 650 CKOM for helping us compile this list and to all the businesses stepping up for truck drivers.

View Truckers Meal & Accommodations Guide

**FHQ- Labour Supports**

The STA has been in contact with FHW Developments. FHQ is a tremendous organization that represents over 15,000 First Nation citizens and 435,000 acres of reserve lands in Treaty 4 territory. Currently, FHQ can serve your business through providing access to labour market and employment services to First Nation job seekers and employers.

The STA has confirmed that there are individuals who already hold valid Class 1A licenses. If your company is looking for additional labour support, you can reach out to Michelle Kupusa, Director, Human Resources

Email Michelle Kupusa

Visit FWH Developments Website

**News from the CTA**

**CBSA Provides Additional Guidelines on Use of Non-Medical Masks for Border Crossing**

CBSA has indicated that any face mask that demonstrates a reasonable “good-faith” effort to adhere to the requirement will be accepted, as they understand there is a limited supply of medical grade masks available. This could include the use of scarfs, bandanas or other materials. As per yesterday’s CTA newsflash, CBSA will
be distributing masks at ports of entry free of charge when they are available to drivers who are not in possession of their own mask or face covering. At this time, CBSA has indicated no driver will be denied entry into Canada or be directed to secondary.

In addition, **PHAC has stated** that persons that are exempt from mandatory quarantine are still required to wear an appropriate mask or face covering upon entry into Canada, and that all travellers arriving in Canada will be required to wear a non-medical mask or face covering to proceed to their final destination within Canada to mitigate the potential spread of COVID-19. Please find more info, [here](#).

**Face Masks Become Mandatory**

If you have operations in New York or Pennsylvania, both Governor’s have issued Executive Orders requiring face masks to be worn in public. This order does not exempt any industry. The face covering can be a medical mask, or another type of cloth face covering such as a bandana. View the full article, [here](#).

### Sanitation Supplies

Based in Calgary, **All Clean Natural** has your sanitation needs covered. You can purchase 4L jugs of hand sanitizer for $53.82/cases of 4; 60ML bottles are $3.90/cases of 80; and 236ML bottles available for $6.89/cases of 24. They also have masks available. The N95 units sell for $8.33 a mask and come in packs of 25. The disposable masks sell for $1.50 and come in either packs fo 50 or 10. You can email dan@allcleannatural.com to make an order and visit their website [www.allcleannatural.com](http://www.allcleannatural.com).