



CANADIAN FERTILIZER INSTITUTE  
INSTITUT CANADIEN DES ENGRAIS



## CFI ISSUES



## Spring Fertilizer Season Trucking Regulations

- The fertilizer industry is seeking flexibility under regulations governing trucking hours of service for the delivery of fertilizer during the critical spring planting season.
- Our application to Transport Canada will help ensure that farmers will get essential fertilizer supplies for this year's crop. Our application has been supported by the Grain Growers of Canada and the Canadian Association of Agri-Retailers.
- More flexibility is needed for the fertilizer industry with respect to driving hours, the scheduling of breaks and standby or wait time.
- Our application includes our industry's commitment to public safety and detailed plans to achieve this objective. Specifically it does not ask for an increase in the total daily allowable maximum hours of a truck driver.
- The validity of our application has been confirmed after the United States Department of Transport granted its fertilizer industry a sweeping exemption from hours of service regulations for anhydrous ammonia this spring. The CFI application is much less extensive.

### **United States Exemption**

*Yesterday, we were pleased to learn that the Department of Transportation's (DOT) Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) has issued a limited 90 day waiver from the hours of service regulations for the spring planting season. The [waiver](#), which is effective immediately, allows motor carriers with a satisfactory safety rating to use the agricultural hours of service exemption when their drivers are delivering anhydrous ammonia from any distribution point to a local farm retailer or to the ultimate customer, as long as the transportation takes place within a 100 mile air radius of the wholesale distribution point or the farm retailer.*

– The Fertilizer Institute, Washington, D.C., March 19, 2010



**The Canadian Fertilizer industry is asking Members of Parliament to encourage Transport Canada to:**

- **Approve an application to allow truck drivers delivering fertilizer to farms during the critical spring planting season to have more flexibility in the rules governing hours of service.**
- **Approval of this application is necessary to provide a level playing field for Canadian farmers and fertilizer retailers.**

### **Spring Seeding**

Every mid-March to the end of May there is a dramatic but temporary increase in the transportation of fertilizer to farms. Up to 70 percent of all fertilizers consumed in Canada are transported to the farm during these months. There is growing concern that farmers will not be able to receive their fertilizer shipments in time for the 2010 planting season. This year the situation is particularly affected by the global economic crisis, as weather, the economic uncertainty and farmers' consequent delay in purchasing needed inputs has resulted in fertilizer shipments to date running 20 to 30 percent behind normal. The fall application season, similarly, is often extremely truncated due to a late harvest and early winter.



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