



**Council of Deputy Ministers Responsible for
Transportation and Highway Safety**

Task Force on Vehicle Weights and Dimensions Policy

Minimum Track Width Requirements for Trailers – December 2009

Under the Memorandum of Understanding on Vehicle Weights and Dimensions, the current requirements for minimum track width¹ on trailers are as follows:

A. Trailer axles fitted with dual tires

The track width for trailer axles fitted with dual tires must be no less than 2.5 m.

B. Trailer axles fitted with single tires

i) Trailers from model year 2009² and earlier

The track width for all axles on trailers fitted with single tires from model year 2009 and earlier must be no less than 2.3 m.

ii) Trailers from model year 2010³ and later

The track width for all axles on trailers from model year 2010 or later must be no less than 2.5 m.

New Provision - Track Width Option to Retain Flexibility in Tire Choice

To accommodate situations where carriers would like to retain the option of being able to switch between dual tires and wide single tires on trailer axles, provinces and territories have agreed that the following provision will be made available:

- The minimum track width requirement for trailers built in or after 2010 that are equipped with single tires will be no less than 2.45 m.
- The track width for trailers equipped with dual tires remains at 2.5m.

Any trailer built in or after 2010 that is converted from dual to single tires must bear a label adjacent to the original compliance label:

- Identifying the company, or authorized dealer of a company, under the *Motor Vehicle Safety Act* (Canada) that converted the trailer; and
- Indicating the revised tire and wheel size designation and revised gross vehicle and axle weight ratings.

Provincial and territorial regulations prohibit loading axles beyond the manufacturer's gross axle weight rating as indicated on the trailer's compliance label. In rating the axles, trailer manufacturers are required to take account of the axle capacity and all of its components. When revising axle weight ratings, qualified companies are expected to account for the wheel offsets and the impact this may have on axle and bearing capacity.

Companies registered with Transport Canada and qualified to issue vehicle and axle weight ratings can be found at: <http://www.wapps.tc.gc.ca/saf-sec-sur/7/vmrtccvaetc/search.aspx>

¹ **Track Width** means the width of an axle across the outside faces of the tires measured at any point above the lowest point of the rim.

² In Alberta and Ontario this provision applies to trailers manufactured in 2009 or earlier

³ In Alberta and Ontario this provision applies to trailers manufactured in 2010 or later

Implementation

Regulatory changes are required by several provinces and territories to implement the change in track width requirement described above. However, provinces and territories are pursuing approval and means to accommodate this option as quickly as possible, possibly through issuance of special permits.

For further information, please refer to the Task Force web page at www.comt.ca or contact the appropriate provincial or territorial transportation agency.