

July 27, 2015

## *Special Permit Program for Roll Coupled Hitches.*

Nova Scotia Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal has completed the evaluation of a roll coupled hitch that has been tested under a pilot project beginning in 2012. The roll coupled hitch system is designed to improve trailer stability. By roll coupling the truck and trailer together, the likelihood of roll over is significantly reduced. Engineering modeling and pilot program testing has shown substantial improvement in truck-trailer stability (e.g. a roll coupled tridem trailer at 24 tonnes is more stable than the same trailer at 21 tonnes coupled with a pintle hitch). Safety and stability are further enhanced because the driver can feel and react to the motion of the trailer.

The pilot program will now be changed to a permanent program under special permits.

Under the roll coupled hitch special permit, participants will be allowed to have a hitch offset up to 3.4m, a maximum gross vehicle weight (GVW) of 50,000 kg for a tandem truck with tridem pony trailer and 55,500 kg for a tandem steer truck with tridem pony trailer.

## *Eligibility*

Special Permits will be available for increased weights and hitch offset, provided that the following criteria are met:

- Must have a roll coupled hitch professionally installed and certified by an approved, original equipment manufacturer.
- Must have a Carrier Safety Rating of Satisfactory, Unaudited or better.

For more information regarding these special permits, visit:

<http://novascotia.ca/tran/trucking/vehiclewghtsdims.asp>

Or contact:

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