
INFORMATION BULLETIN

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Ministry of Forests

FOREST OFFICIALS CRACK DOWN ON TIMBER TRANSPORT

VICTORIA – A provincewide crackdown on timber transport regulations saw Ministry of Forests staff inspect 671 logging trucks over three days.

The ministry's Compliance and Enforcement Program organized the crackdown to promote compliance with legal requirements aimed at preventing timber theft and ensuring that correct stumpage is paid on Crown timber. Timber theft and incorrect stumpage cost the Province millions of dollars a year, funds that help pay for sustainable forest management and vital public services like health care and education.

Over 70 staff stopped logging trucks at 19 checkpoints throughout the province during the Jan. 25-27 crackdown. Trucks were inspected on Forest Service roads, at highway checkpoints and U.S. border crossings. The RCMP and inspectors from Commercial Vehicle Safety and Enforcement supported ministry staff at many locations.

About 80 per cent of trucks inspected were fully compliant with all requirements. The most common problems found were improper marking of loaded timber and missing information on timber transport documents. Most contraventions were minor and resulted in verbal warnings, although Compliance and Enforcement staff issued 32 written warnings, 18 compliance notices and seven violation tickets.

The Compliance and Enforcement Program plans to conduct additional crackdowns to encourage compliance with timber transport regulations.

Compliance and Enforcement staff are responsible for enforcing forest management laws and combating forest crimes such as theft, arson and mischief. Officials conduct more than 16,000 inspections a year to assess compliance with forest laws related to harvesting, road building and other activities. Where there is evidence of a contravention, an investigation is conducted, which may lead to the issuance of a violation ticket, penalty or other enforcement action. The most serious forest crimes are prosecuted through the court system.

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If you think you have any information about a forestry contravention or crime, call your local Ministry of Forests office, or Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477 (all callers may remain anonymous).

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Note: Photos and compliance statistics for each road check site are available on request.

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