



Today, the Ontario Ministry of Transportation announced the alignment of its exemptions to the Highway Traffic Act pertaining to, Hours of Service, Vehicle Inspections and Speed Limiters in support of COVID-19 relief following the Federal Transport Canada announcement March 24, 2020.

It is important to note, that at this time, the Federal or Provincial exemptions, DO NOT provide relief from regulations for municipal operations, nor support application of s. 3(1)(4.1) of the Ontario Regulation 555/06 Hours of Service for the delivery of core municipal services.

e.g. Repair or maintenance activities for, Electric, water or gas utilities, sanitary or storm water, road maintenance, etc..

Municipalities are expected to continue to comply with applicable regulations as normal through this period. An exemption may be available for restoration of core services in the case of unanticipated disruption to a hospital, temporary medical centre, or other designated facility.

A copy of today's announcement follows;

## **Government of Ontario Introduces Potential Supply Chain Flexibility During Fight Against COVID-19**

(Toronto, March 30, 2020) -- With the declaration of the state of emergency in the Province of Ontario, an emergency amendment is automatically put into place regarding provincially regulated trucking companies and hours of service provisions. These temporary options to the hours of service are put in place to allow the province to respond to the specific emergency -- in this case COVID-19.

The option for hours of service exemptions are designed to potentially assist provincially regulated motor carriers and their drivers engaged in the transport of essential supplies and equipment in the emergency relief efforts during the response to COVID-19 in Ontario. MTO's expectations are that carriers who chose to pursue any of the options do so following the guidance contained in the federal exemptions issued last week.

For full and complete details of the MTO announcement that provides guidance for both provincially and federally regulated carriers, please click here: [200330-COVID-19 Stakeholders Update-Federal Hours of Service Exemption-Other Provincial Legislative Exemptions for COVID-19\\_public](#)

A list of commodities applicable to this provision along with conditions are contained in the attached documents:

[Signed - EN Essential Freight Transport Exemption\\_public](#)

[Signed - FR Essential Freight Transport Exemption\\_public](#)

Carriers are strongly encouraged to carefully read the details of the MTO communications and the expectations the Government of Ontario has of carriers with respect to the exercising of the exemption options presented.

Further questions on regulatory compliance for drivers and commercial motor vehicles may be submitted to [admin@meoa.org](mailto:admin@meoa.org)