



Statistics

- + Canadian Trucking Industry generates \$67 billion in revenue per year
- + Road based trade from Canada to USA totals \$327 billion per year
- + Canadian truckers drive 60 billion miles in the USA
- + 25% of trucks operating in USA are Canadian trucks

Liability of a Common Carrier

- + Common law: onerous liability practically amounting to liability of an insurer
- + Statute: creates additional defences to encourage trade (i.e. \$2/pound)



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Statutory Defences: \$2/Pound

- + Statutes in each Province include a set of "Uniform Conditions"
- + "Uniform Conditions" in each Province contain a \$2/pound weight limit
- + <u>BUT</u>: requirements that must be met to rely on the \$2/pound defence are different from Province to Province

Alberta & Ontario

- + "Uniform Conditions" are "deemed to apply" to every contract of carriage
- + No requirement to "properly issue" the bills of lading
- + Easier to rely on limitation defences

B.C. & Saskatchewan

- + No "deeming" language
- + Bills of lading must be "properly issued"
- + "Properly Issued" includes proper form, and proper use

Law of Which Province?

- + Law of the Province in which a shipment originates will apply
 - + B.C. to Alberta shipment, Bill of Lading must be "properly issued"
 - + Alberta to B.C. shipment, no need to "properly issue" the Bill of Lading

Other Limitation Options

- + Intention of the parties
- + Through Bills & Himalaya Clauses

Limits of Weight Limit Defence

- + \$2/pound limitation does not apply to loss of profit or business loss claims
 - + only limits liability for direct damage to cargo / property
 - + serious risk of being exposed to a loss the carrier is not insured for

Head Contracts

- + Clarifies Limitation and other issues
- + Practical Uses:
 - + Between Carrier and regular / routine customer booking a number of loads per year
 - + Overseas shippers

Motor Carrier Liability

- + Onerous liability: need statutory defences
- + \$2/pound in B.C. only if "properly issued"
- + "Properly Issued" requires compliance with both form and use
- + Other limitation options based on intention of parties and "Through" Bills of Lading
- + \$2/pound does not apply to business losses
- + Consider ability to use head contracts

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Any Questions?



Whitelaw—Twining

Thank you.

For more information, please visit our website at

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