



Project INFORM Backgrounder

What is Project INFORM?

Project INFORM is a component of the WorkSafeBC TruckSafe strategy. INFORM stands for **I**nfractio**N** **N**otification **F**orwarded to **O**wners **R**egistered to a **M**otor Vehicle. It is a partnership among the RCMP, WorkSafeBC, and Human Resources and Skills Development Canada – Labour Programs. Project INFORM will let employers know when drivers (workers) operate employer-registered motor vehicles in an unsafe manner. The program is already underway in the Peace region of B.C.

How does it work?

When a driver is charged with a driving infraction in a work vehicle, the RCMP sends a letter to the registered owner, with a copy going to WorkSafeBC for administrative purposes only. The letter states that it is being forwarded “out of common courtesy” to make the owners aware of the infraction. It provides details about the vehicle, date, time, location, and type of alleged offence. The letter does not identify the driver due to privacy laws.

The registered owner (employer) will determine who the driver was, in accordance with the part of their written occupational health and safety program that focuses on the safe operation of motor vehicles under the direction and control of the employer. Any subsequent employer response will be in accordance with the progressive discipline component of the employer’s written occupational health and safety program.

Why is it needed?

Failure to wear seatbelts and speeding are two of the leading causes of serious accidents and fatalities in B.C. In 2004, the RCMP issued 1,200 INFORM letters in the Fort. St. John and Fort Nelson areas.

The program will increase driver awareness, with a goal of improving driving skills and minimizing accidents and injuries. It will also make it easier for employers and supervisors to monitor the driving habits of workers operating motor vehicles. It will encourage employers to develop a written occupational health and safety program. For those employers who already have an OHS program, INFORM will encourage employers to review and/or develop policies and procedures to address the use of company vehicles.

Ultimately, the goal is to improve workplace safety by reducing the number of injuries and loss of life, and save money by lowering insurance costs, and damage and maintenance costs to worker-operated vehicles.

What has been the response to the program so far?

Employers have been following through with internal investigations and corrective action. Industry comments on the program have been very positive. For example, the Petroleum Services Association of Canada has endorsed the program. Recently, HRSDC – Labour Programs has made a commitment to become involved.

What are the costs of the program?

The cost of sending out letters is minimal compared to the costs associated with injuries and fatalities that occur every year in B.C.

What are the next steps?

Project INFORM will expand into Dawson Creek, Chetwynd, and Tumbler Ridge areas later this year. WorkSafeBC is continuing to work with individual RCMP detachments to expand the program, with a goal of implementing the program province-wide by 2008. Partnerships are currently being discussed with Ministry of Transportation.