

**Interagency Agriculture Compliance Committee
Meeting Minutes - May 13, 2008**

Attendees:

Pat Cullinane, Chair, MLCS – ESB
Rod Bianchini, MLCS – ESB
Cst. Larry Ness, RCMP
Staff Sergeant Jim Simmill, RCMP
Linda Mazzei, OSMV
Dawn Major, CVSE (attended in absence of Greg Gilks)
Steve Haywood, CVSE Manager for Lower Mainland and Fraser Valley
David Coney, MAL
Chris Hartmann, WorkSafeBC

1. Pre-season Voluntary Inspections: Four of education/voluntary inspections took place in April and four additional days taking place this week in Abbotsford and Delta. Generally the quality of the vehicles has improved and willingness of Farm Labour Contractors to bring vehicles in prior to putting them in service is a positive sign.
2. Roadside Enforcement Inspections: There were six inspections over the course of March and April with 115 vehicles inspected. Percentage of vehicles not passing and being designated as out of service has been reduced since last year. Employment Standards has cited contractors for more violations, primarily because of new requirement to post the seating notice in each vehicle. The Branch is issuing mandatory penalties for each violation. Generally the mechanical state of vehicles has improved significantly as indicated by the decreased percentage of vehicles being designated as out of service.
3. Enforcement sub-committee met on April 29th and a schedule of inspections has been established for the May through August harvest season. Inspections will be attended by representatives of Employment Standards, Commercial Vehicle and Safety Enforcement Branch, WorkSafeBC, and RCMP.
4. Reporting: Each agency is requested to provide their statistical summary on enforcement activities, including orders, fines, and penalties assessed within two weeks after the end of each quarter. The statistics will then be consolidated and circulated for review and posted on the Interagency website.
5. Legislative Changes: Impending changes will provide for producers to be subject to a penalty if they utilize services of an unlicensed contractor. In addition, criteria that enables the cancellation or suspension of an FLC license will be expanded to include serious violations of either *Motor Vehicle Act* or WorkSafeBC requirements.

6. Education: Sessions on the Employment Standards requirements have taken place with both contractors and employees. Commercial Vehicle Branch has utilized media spots on RED FM to educate the community on regulations. The committee will explore adding WorkSafeBC and Employment Standards to these media opportunities. In addition FARSHA has drafted pamphlets to be distributed to educate producers and contractors on the legal requirements and their obligations. Once the information has been confirmed for accuracy the pamphlets will be added to the Interagency website. It was also suggested that it may be beneficial to send approved inspection facilities a summary of common defects being uncovered during roadside inspection. CVSE has agreed to consider this suggestion as it would assist inspection facilities in better understanding the priorities they should be assessing when conducting mechanical inspections.
7. Next meeting: Will be scheduled for late June which will provide an opportunity to assess the outcome of enforcement and education activities and assess compliance trends.