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## Port to introduce new truck license and permit system

The Vancouver Fraser Port Authority will introduce new requirements to support its mandatory Truck License System (TLS) that applies to all container truck operators and operations in the lower mainland. The new license and permit system differentiates between “full service operator” and “independent operator.” To qualify for a license or permit, full service operators and independent operators must properly and accurately declare safety, security and environmental information using the VFPA’s on-line application process. The TLS license and permit application period begins Wednesday, April 2 and will continue for 60 days. The new provisions will take effect at midnight on Wednesday, June 4, 2008.

By implementing strict operating requirements and specific definitions for “full service operator” and “independent operator,” the VFPA will strengthen the accountability and reliability of the license and permit system. The safety, security and environmental declarations will assist the VFPA with TLS administration and enforcement.

A “full service operator” must apply for a Truck License and will be allowed to access any of the four lower mainland container terminal mandatory reservation systems. As defined by the VFPA, a “full service operator” must operate a direct relationship with a customer, provide a complete dispatch service, and offer sufficient equipment at its ready disposal to efficiently and competently provide service on an ongoing basis. In addition to employee drivers, a full service operator may engage the services of an independent operator who holds a valid TLS permit.

An “independent operator” must apply for a Permit before being claimed by a full service operator to operate container-trucking services on port property.

Independent operators will be unable to access the container terminal mandatory reservation systems and must instead gain access to container hauling through sub-contracts to full service companies. This new requirement and definition describes a relatively small drayage entity that gains the majority of its hauling business through contract arrangements with other drayage firms, does not have a significant pool of equipment, and has limited or no dispatch capability. An independent operator with a valid TLS permit may work for only one full service trucking company at a time.

Independent drivers may now qualify for their own permits, which allows them to be claimed by a full service operator to operate within the lower mainland ports. The VFPA will be able to communicate directly with independent operators instead of communicating with them through a full service trucking company. The VFPA plans to host workshops in March to assist current independent operators with the permit application process.

Please visit [www.pacificgatewayportal.com/tlsportal/](http://www.pacificgatewayportal.com/tlsportal/) for TLS information or to apply for a TLS license or permit.

### For more information, please contact:

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