



[February 28, 2012]

Identification of Chain Load Capacity

(replaces bulletin of March 28, 2011)

Since January 1, 2011, it is prohibited to use a tiedown (strap, chain or cable) unless it is marked by the manufacturer with respect to its working load limit (WLL). This provision is included in section 11(4) of Standard 10, *Cargo Securement*, of the *National Safety Code for Motor Carriers*, which is available at www.ccmta.ca. In Québec, this provision is integrated into section 4 of the *Cargo Securement Standards Regulation* (Order in Council 583-2005).

Specifically with regard to chains, the regulation means that one must be able to clearly read the WLL mark on at least one of the chain's links, regardless of its degree of wear. This measure will ensure the compliance of all tiedowns based on, among other things, the weight of the transported cargo.

In some cases, the originally legible WLL mark on a tiedown fades from use. To remedy the problem, several chain distributors decided to use additional markings to indicate the WLL. The ministère des Transports therefore implemented a project to analyze these practices (*Info camionnage* dated March 28, 2011). Québec's analysis was submitted to all stakeholders from the government and the chain industry. Discussions took place and a joint position was adopted during the North American Cargo Securement Harmonization Public Forum, which was held in Montréal last November.

It was agreed that additional markings of a chain, which was not made by the manufacturer, will not be officially recognized in Québec or in any other Canadian administrations.

Consequently, it is important to take into account the quality of the chain at the time of purchase. It can also be beneficial to protect the chain marks to reduce risks of premature wear.

For additional information on cargo securement standards, you can consult the website of the ministère des Transports at <http://www.mtq.gouv.qc.ca> or dial one of the numbers at the bottom of this document.

Version française disponible sur demande.