

AVOIDING LOW CLEARANCE COLLISIONS

Low-clearance collisions remain one of the most preventable incidents in the transportation industry. These accidents can lead to serious equipment damage, cargo loss, service disruptions, injuries, and significant financial costs.

Professional drivers are responsible for knowing the height of their tractor, trailer, and cargo at all times - especially when traveling in unfamiliar areas, urban environments, construction zones, or customer locations. Drivers should also remember that trailer height can change depending on the load, suspension, tire pressure, roadway conditions, or recent paving.

To help prevent low-clearance collisions, drivers should always:

- Know the exact height of their tractor, trailer, and load
- Plan routes using approved truck-routing systems or maps
- Avoid restricted roads, parkways, and non-truck routes
- Review customer entrances and exits before arrival whenever possible
- Watch carefully for posted clearance signs and overhead hazards
- Slow down and stop immediately if clearance appears questionable
- Use mirrors, visual references, and outside assistance when needed, including spotters, height sticks, antennas, or CB radio communication
- Use GPS and navigation systems only as support tools; drivers should always rely on posted signage, route planning, and situational awareness when operating commercial vehicles
- Avoid backing or making U-turns without proper assistance

Drivers should also remain alert for warning signs that may indicate reduced clearance, including:

- Scrape marks or skid marks near bridges and overpasses
- Hanging wires, tree branches, or other overhead obstructions
- Recent paving, uneven pavement, or steep roadway approaches
- Construction detours or temporary route changes
- Railway bridges and older urban structures
- Ice, snow buildup, or uneven roadway surfaces that may reduce available clearance

If there is any doubt about safe clearance, the safest decision is to stop and verify before proceeding. Attempting to "squeeze through" or guessing available clearance can result in serious damage, injuries, downtime, and service interruptions.

Know your height. Know your route. When in doubt, stop and verify.

Low-clearance collisions can often be prevented through proper planning, patience, and disciplined decision-making.



Knowledge Verification ★ ★ ★ ★

Please answer, and forward a completed copy to your Safety Department/Safety Representative.

- 1. Low clearance collisions are often preventable through proper route planning and knowing the height of the equipment True False
- 2. Standard automobile GPS systems should always be relied upon for commercial truck routing True False
- 3. If a driver is unsure about available clearance, the safest decision is to stop and verify before proceeding. True False
- 4. Recent paving, uneven pavement, and snow buildup can impact available bridge or overhead clearance. True False

Driver's Name:	Driver's Signature:	Witness Name:	Date:
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Online Learning Library



At Old Republic Canada, we value safety and education. Our online Learning Library is a tool our customers can use to enhance their training efforts and keep safety on the forefront of their employees' minds. Below are some additional titles that can be accessed on any mobile device, computer, or tablet. Simply go to <http://orican.infinet-i.net> to get started.

- Value Driven Driving:
 Module 1 - Preventing Rear-End Crashes
 Module 2 - Preventing Loss of Control Crashes
 Module 3 - Preventing Lane Change Crashes