



Ministerial Statement to the House of Assembly

Dumpster Trailers

By

The Hon. Shawn Crockwell, JP, MP
Minister of Tourism Development and Transport
Friday June 14, 2013

Mr. Speaker,

The use of dumpster trailers has caused contention within the trucking industry for many years. On approval of an application submitted to the Transport Control Department a Permit is issued granting permission to the applicant to operate a trailer. The Permit clearly states the conditions and restrictions of use for the trailer.

The Ministry has also found that some companies have received approval to use trailers for haulage work for specific projects that involve hauling materials on time sensitive projects and demolition of a large building, the former Club Med Hotel and the Bermudian Hotel for example. The approval was valid for the duration of the specified project.

In recent years some companies have strived to improve their operations and become more efficient and the state of the economy has forced companies to tighten their belts and become innovative with hauling their products. Some companies and owners have devised methods of transporting products using shipping trailers which can move large quantities of product during a single run as opposed to using a truck which will have to make a few trips. It is not always easy identifying these breaches since the expectation when you see a trailer with a shipping container is that it is departing the dock for a warehouse or the like.

It is understood that for survival companies will implement cost saving measures and we applaud and encourage efforts that will keep our people employed. However, the Ministry must ensure companies and individual owners operate their vehicles within the provision of the law.

Mr. Speaker,

We are also cognizant that in recent decades the introduction and implementation of new technology and innovative methods has caused changes in the design and operation of construction equipment. For example entrepreneurs have invested in crane trucks, tippers, and multi-use bobcats and excavating equipment to handle smaller jobs that were once serviced by commercial grade heavy construction equipment. Also, in some instances companies are utilizing their own vehicles to haul their own products and materials instead of bearing the expense of hiring independent vehicles. This

has had an impact on some individual truckers and other businesses in this field, in some cases, a detrimental impact.

Mr. Speaker,

In the face of this competition, companies and vehicle owners that are comfortable in the way they manage their operations as the status quo and who also do not recognize the impact of various innovations or have not adapted to changing environments, regardless of the potential benefits, will get left behind. Bermuda is no different from anywhere else in the world where traditional methods are replaced as companies consider the economic necessity of investing in equipment or non-traditional methods and technology.

In light of these various issues, the Ministry is conducting a review of existing permits for trucks, tank wagons, tractors, constructional machines and trailers as well as current practices, industry trends, policies, and the legislative framework in order to address the continual changes occurring in this sector of the economy with a view to being proactive instead of punitive. This review includes consultation with relevant stakeholders.

From preliminary discussions with stakeholders it has been identified that some of the current issues are the direct result of Permit holders' interpretation of the Act. The Ministry acknowledges that the Act requires amendments to provide greater clarity and be more specific on trailer usage and to reflect modern business practices.

Consequently, very soon a Bill will be laid that amends the Motor car Act 1951. The Bill will make provisions to give the Minister responsible for Transport statutory authority to grant permits for the use of different classes of trailers. It will also provide definitions for the various classes, the usage and restrictions of those trailers.

Thank You, Mr. Speaker!