

The California Highway Patrol agreed to an exemption from the new tie-down regulations for the 2010 harvest season for those commodities hauled in bins, boxes and tubs. This exemption has been provided for the purpose of performing an evaluation on the methods of securement utilized by the industry.

This exemption applies to the intrastate transportation of perishable ag products transported in bins, boxes and tubs, from the field to the first point of processing or packing. All cargo shall be properly loaded, and containers properly secured to prevent shifting or load spillage.

Prior to utilizing this exemption, each motor carrier shall provide their name, and contact number, California Carrier Identification number, and type of cargo and method of securement, via facsimile, to the CHP Commercial Vehicle Section, attention Officer Ron Leimer at (916) 843-3400.

Motor carriers utilizing this exemption shall notify Officer Ron Leimer, CHP Commercial Vehicle Section at (916) 843-3400, fax (916) 322-3154 or e-mail rleimer@chp.ca.gov within 72 hours of any event involving shifting of containers or loss of cargo, and include:

- a. Date, time and location;
- b. Types of vehicles and cargo containers involved;
- c. Specific cargo securement devices used;
- d. Possible reason(s) for the occurrence;
- e. Motor carrier name and California Carrier Identification number.

A copy of this exemption shall be carried in each exempted vehicle and presented immediately upon request of CHP, sheriff's department or local law enforcement agency. This exemption is valid from June 1, 2010 through April 30, 2011, and may be extended or rescinded for good cause.

The exemption will be revoked for any motor carrier that fails to comply with, or adhere to, all conditions of this exemption. On a monthly basis, no later than the 15th of each month, motor carriers utilizing this exemption shall report the following information for the previous month, to the CHP Commercial Vehicle Section:

- a. Total number of loads by container type (bin, tub or box) transported under this exemption.
- b. Total number of miles driven under this exemption.
- c. Total number of on-highway accidents involving loads transported under this exemption.
- d. Total number of off-highway accidents involving loads transported under this exemption.
- e. Total number, by month, of driver hours for loads transported under this exemption.
- f. Total number of citations received for a loading violation issued to vehicles operating under this exemption.
- g. Total number of citations received for a mechanical violation for vehicles operating under this exemption.
- h. Total number of citations received for a driver violation issued to drivers operating vehicles operating under this exemption.
- i. Total number of all other citations issued for vehicles operating under this exemption.

The monthly reports should be sent to Officer Ron Leimer, CHP via fax at (916) 322-3154 or e-mail rleimer@chp.ca.gov.

If you have questions regarding this information please call California Farm Bureau at (916) 446-4647.