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GENERAL:

- **Background:**
  Carriers are requesting that “push trucks” be allowed on heavier moves. Push trucks are usually attached to the rear of the permitted vehicle with an A-frame type bar (two connection points on the push truck, one on the permitted vehicle). There is usually a counterweight on the push truck adding weight to the drive axles increasing traction. Push trucks assist the power unit, in particular when traveling up grades. Push trucks also add braking capacity. Push trucks may be attached only to assist on steep grades, or can be used for the entire trip.

  The Department has disallowed the use of push trucks due to a potential conflict with Section 385.15 of the NYS Vehicle & Traffic Law (VTL), which prohibits most towing operations involving more than two vehicles.

  The push truck is not functioning as a towing vehicle, so it has been determined that there is no conflict with the VTL. Since there is no conflict with the VTL, and there are clear safety benefits resulting from the use of push trucks, the Department is revising this policy to now allow push trucks.

- **Purpose:**
  To update Department policy regarding the use of push trucks.

- **Administration:**
  Effective upon the issuance of this notice, push trucks will be allowed. The Department may disallow a push truck request. For example this may be done if the Department determines that the towing vehicle is not adequate for the proposed move. The use of push trucks must conform to the policy stated below.
NEW POLICY:

• Approval Conditions:
  1. The applicant must note that a push truck is requested for the move. This should be done via a letter submitted with the application.
  2. The push truck must be a registered vehicle, and the applicant should supply the registration information to NYSDOT. Loaders or other construction vehicle may not be used as push trucks.
  3. The push truck must be physically connected to the rear of the pushed vehicle. The method of connection must be approved by NYSDOT. The applicant must submit a diagram or a picture of the connection with the permit application.
  4. If the push truck is oversize/overweight, the applicant must obtain permits for all movements of the push truck when not connected to the permitted vehicle.
  5. Carrier shall identify where / what section of the trip the push truck will be used. When not in use, the push truck shall be detached from the trailer.
  6. The push truck must be included on the route survey, vehicle diagrams, axle data, and other documentation submitted with the permit application.

• Effective Date – December 8, 2008.

REFERENCE: N/A