EM9410: The Record, Kitchener, Ontario, July 19, 1994, page A2

42% of Ontario trucks found unfit in spot check

OTTAWA – Ontario's trucks are becoming more dangerous, according to a spot check inspection of tractor-trailers and semi-trailers by the Transportation Ministry.

Of the 2,650 trucks pulled over at random in June by inspectors, 1,103 were considered mechanically unfit to be driven and were ordered off the road. The 42-per-cent failure rate is an increase from 34 per cent found in a similar spot check last year.

"The safety record is only getting worse, rather than better. We're not sitting very comfortably at all with the failure rate," said Heather Rex, a government affairs co-ordinator with the Canadian Automobile Club. "It's just unacceptable."

Ministry spokesperson Anne McLaughlin said the results of the Ontario-wide inspection, known as Roadcheck '94, were disappointing.

"Those vehicles that were surveyed were in poorer condition than we've seen in any year before," said McLaughlin.

In 1992, however, the most recent year for such statistics, she said only 2.6 per cent of truck accidents were caused by the vehicles being defective.

"Vehicle defects are not what are causing the accidents. It's what the drivers are doing."

SouthamStar Network.

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