State of California
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
Division of Traffic Operations, Mail Station 36
Transportation Permits Branch

Caltrans Proposal Response

Subject: Original Permit Policy - Valid Copy/Faxes of Annual Permit (Fleet Annuals)
Proposal Date: November 8, 2003 (Revised 2006)
Date: February 25, 2010
Reference: CTPAC WG7-110803-001

Industry Proposed Revision:

1) Annuals and/or repetitive permits be accepted in the form of a facsimile or copy.
2) Annuals may be copied and utilized in one or more vehicles provided that the vehicle(s) conforms to the prescribed permit.

The Department's Response:

California requires every transportation permit be carried in the specific vehicle or combination of vehicles and shall be open to inspection by any law enforcement officer or authorized State agent. Annual permits are issued for a specific vehicle that allows that vehicle to travel under its own unique permit number. Allowing multiple vehicles to use the same permit number would make enforcement very difficult.

One of the purposes of a transportation permit is to provide law enforcement officers with a clear description of the load and hauling equipment. This facilitates the ability to verify and validate a permit. For the last 35 years, it has been the Department's policy and practice to issue every annual permit as an original with its own permit number for compliance purposes.

Permit fees are based on the costs to administer the Transportation Permit Program. Every permit number issued represents a fee for each type of permit. It is necessary to account for every permit issued and fee charged to that permit. Allowing customers to copy and duplicate permits will impact revenue, staffing, workload, and costs for annual permits.

The Department is looking into implementing an automated permitting system (ATPS) to auto issue permits. This system will issue permits 24 hours per day, everyday, even holidays and weekends. Industry will have 24/7 access to apply for permits online. The Department expects that the ATPS would incorporate a feature that allows industry to achieve the goal of this proposal.