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Current standards in the province of Ontario restrict the length of commercial vehicles. Yet in other jurisdictions in North America, longer commercial vehicles with combination trailers exceeding 25 metres are permitted in some circumstances. The Ontario Trucking Association had no position on the use of longer commercial vehicles and wished to know what specifically other jurisdictions were allowing on the roads with respect to longer commercial vehicles, what was their experience and what research had been done on the topic.



Synectics carried out a state-of-the-practice review on the use of longer commercial vehicles across North America. Telephone interviews were carried out across Canada and in key States to determine what were the regulations regarding the use of longer commercial vehicles and how successfully these vehicles had been integrated into their jurisdiction. An extensive review was carried out into trucking issues such as safety, vehicle performance, public opinion, required infrastructure improvements, intra-modal and environment impacts and cost-benefit analysis studies. The report, when completed, provided the Ontario Trucking Association with a clear position on the use of longer commercial vehicles, their benefits and drawbacks.