



news

Motor
Vehicle Sales Authority
of British Columbia

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Motor dealer penalized for misrepresenting and selling unsafe vehicle

BURNABY, B.C. 21 August, 2008) - Massive Truck Sales Ltd. of Abbotsford and its principals Gurtej Sidhu and Jastez Singh Sidhu have been penalized by the Registrar of Motor Dealers for deceptive practices related to the sale of an unsafe used truck and ordered to make full restitution to the consumer involved.

Citing the province's Motor Dealer Act, the Business Practices and Consumer Protection Act and related regulations, and that this is the second such infraction by Massive Truck, Deputy Registrar Ian Christman ordered restitution to the consumer; an administrative assessment of \$20,000 against the dealership; \$2,250 against the two salesperson licences and full compensation to the Motor Vehicle Sales Authority (VSA) for the costs of the proceedings. Other conditions were attached to the dealer and salesperson licences. One salesperson was suspended for three days for giving a false statement to investigators.

The case involved a used Dodge truck. The customer was told that the vehicle had been owned by an old man and had been "well maintained." It was also represented that all of the vehicles at this dealership had their brakes inspected prior to sale.

Within two weeks of the sale, the brakes failed completely. The Dodge was subsequently inspected and failed the B.C. Private Vehicle Inspection, judged unsuitable for transportation for several reasons. During a test drive, the dealer had played down a noise and vehicle pull upon braking as a minor alignment problem.

In his judgment, Christman wrote:

"I believe this case is without precedent as to the severity of the potential harm from the deception. It surpassed mere monetary damages. Through a deceptive act, Massive Truck placed a consumer and the general public in danger for the sake of selling the Dodge for under \$5,000.00."

The Deputy Registrar permitted Massive Truck and the salespeople to continue in business, but he issued strict conditions:

- Every vehicle sold must first pass the B.C. Private Vehicle Inspection - to be reviewed after one year.
- The two salespeople involved must retake the VSA's Salesperson Certification Course at their own cost within 90 days or their licences will be suspended.

The dealer and the salespeople were also warned that another such infraction may cost them their licences.

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FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

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