

## With experience and reputation, but still developing - ITD is 18 years old

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The first patrols of the Road Transport Inspection began inspections on Polish roads 18 years ago. The Inspection reaches majority with modern control facilities, expert knowledge and qualified staff. Today, Alvin Gajadhar, Chief Road Transport Inspector and the management of the General Road Transport Inspectorate spoke about the history and the development perspective during the briefing.



The Road Transport Act, the first 80 trained inspectors and finally the first road inspections on October 1, 2002 - this is how the beginnings of the Road Transport Inspection in Poland telegraphically looked like.

18 years of ITD's activity in numbers: over 3.1 million road checks, over 27 thousand enterprises' inspections and almost 16.4 million working days of drivers checked. ITD inspectors conducted, among others: nearly 480 thousand passenger transport controls, over 300 thousand vehicle weight controls, 286 thousand inspections of vehicles carrying dangerous goods, or nearly 60 thousand waste shipment controls.

*"18 years of inspectors' work bring tangible results. The presence of road inspectors, their knowledge and experience are a guarantee for the transport industry in ensuring conditions for fair competition and limiting the occurrence of undesirable practices in road transport,"* said Alvin Gajadhur, Chief Road Transport Inspector. *"Inspections carried out in narrow, specialized areas affect the growth of safety of the drivers themselves as well as other road users. For example, the Inspection is the leader in terms of controlling the working time of professional drivers. The inspectors' undertaken actions are to limit the cases of manipulation, forgery of working hours and driving vehicles contrary to the standards,"* added the Head of ITD.

The scope of the Inspection's control activities is wide. The inspectors specialize in the control of heavy vehicles and coaches, the transport of hazardous materials, waste, animals, and they protect the road infrastructure by withdrawing overloaded vehicles from traffic.

### **Specialized and modern**

Specialized control equipment, modern police cars, and in the future, equipping 16 voivodeship road transport inspectorates with unique equipment. The process of strengthening ITD's control potential is underway.

*"The inspectors received 64 sets necessary for the inspection of vehicles and tachographs. There were also 64 vehicles with specialist equipment delivered to voivodeship ITD. The last stage in the implementation of the project to strengthen the ITD's potential is the purchase of 16 mobile diagnostic units intended for comprehensive inspection of the technical condition of vehicles on the road,"* the ITD Head enumerated. *"This equipment is to support inspectors, improve their work and further increase the effectiveness of inspection activities. The formation, through the use of additional control potential, increases its operational readiness, and thanks to the detection and exclusion from traffic of a greater number of vehicles that threaten safety and dangerous to the environment, it strengthens the road safety management system in Poland,"* he added.

### **Not only heavy transport roadside checks**

The inspectors have also been ensuring the tightness of the toll collection system on toll road sections for 9 years. During that time they conducted over 23 million mobile checks, checking whether the fees had been paid. These tasks are carried out today by over 150 inspectors.

In 2011, the inspection also took over the task that affects the regulation of the transport market by conducting administrative proceedings related to issuing permits, such as licenses, permits and certificates, and driver's certificates.

*"These two areas of the Inspection's activity will be developed. It is planned to implement solutions that will streamline the process of issuing permits and licenses. We are currently designing an electronic system that, thanks to the ability to communicate with other GITD systems, as well as external systems, will enable, among others, shortening the waiting time for the implementation of applications submitted by carriers. In addition, it is also planned to facilitate online preview of the status of application implementation and current data regarding the entrepreneur's rights,"* emphasized Joanna Smolińska, acting Deputy Chief Inspector of Road Transport.

The number of permits and licenses issued is growing every year. For example, from 2015 to 2019, the number of driver certificates issued more than tripled. Only this year, the Chief Inspectorate of Road Transport has already released almost 46 thousand driver's certificates.

### **The speed camera system will be developed**

2011 was a special year in the history of the Inspection. Not only was the scope of tasks extended, but ITD launched an automatic road traffic supervision system, taking over e.g. 100 speed cameras from the police and GDDKiA. Today, the system consists of over half a thousand recording devices, and in the perspective there are another 100 new road sections under control. Since 2011, more than 3.6 million cases resulted in the imposition of fines for speeding and monitoring entry to the intersection at a red light, and over 36,000 cases ended with requests for punishment to the courts.

*"In the coming days, we will sign a contract for the purchase and implementation of 26 stationary recording devices. This is the first stage of the development of the speed camera system. Subsequently, over 250 devices already in operation will be replaced with new ones. Thanks to the expansion project being implemented, co-financed in 85% by the European Union, the number of places under supervision will also increase by 100,"* calculated Karolina Wieczorek acting Deputy Chief Inspector of

Road Transport. *We use modern technology to provide road users with a higher sense of security. Each place we inspect is analysed and assessed in terms of the legitimacy of using the devices. The devices will be placed in the most dangerous places, where, unfortunately, tragic road incidents take place,*"she emphasized.

As part of the expansion of the system, 39 new devices for sectional measurement of average speed will also be purchased, 30 devices monitoring entry to the intersection at a red light and 5 sets which will be placed on the railway crossing.

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