

Apprentice training class 1



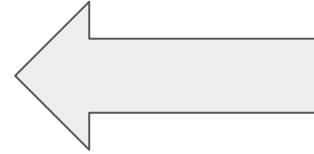
Commission scolaire
de la Rivière-du-Nord

CHAPTER 1 DRIVER RESPONSIBILITIES.



Introduction

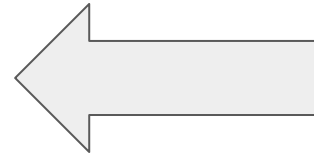
In road safety, it is generally agreed that a large share of the responsibilities falls on the driver. Therefore, when an accident occurs, the blame is often attributed to the driver rather than to the vehicle, the road, or any other factors.



To prevent such a situation, you must stack the odds in your favor. It is important to prepare well by knowing and respecting the rules governing road transport. You should also develop behaviors that promote the safe operation of a heavy vehicle. Among other things, you must adapt your driving to the type of vehicle, the cargo being transported, or the fact that you are carrying passengers. Finally, since the road is often full of surprises, you must know how to intervene at the right moment.

Important à retenir

Knowing your rights and fulfilling your obligations, as well as respecting the rights of other road users, is a promising path to becoming a professional driver.



Wearing the seatbelt

In Quebec, the **driver of a heavy vehicle is required to wear the seatbelt installed by the vehicle manufacturer.** Statistics show that this simple action helps reduce the number of fatalities and the severity of injuries caused by traffic accidents.

Wearing a seatbelt is mandatory at all times on public roads. However, it is acceptable for it to be unfastened during a reversing maneuver.

Alcohol and drugs.

In Quebec, a heavy vehicle cannot be driven by a person whose faculties are impaired, particularly by the effects of alcohol or drugs. **A driver with a blood alcohol concentration (BAC) equal to or greater than 80 mg of alcohol per 100 ml of blood (0.08) and who drives while impaired is subject to the sanctions and measures stipulated** by the Criminal Code and the Highway Safety Code.

Zero Tolerance.

Furthermore, it is **prohibited to drive or have custody or control of a bus, minibus, or taxi with alcohol or drugs in the blood.** Individuals who violate the zero-tolerance rule **will be banned from driving these vehicles for a period of 24 hours.**



Limit of 50 mg of alcohol per 100 ml of blood

A person who drives or has custody or control of a heavy vehicle (other than those subject to the zero-tolerance rule), a tow truck, or a vehicle requiring the application of hazard indication plates (according to the Regulation on Hazardous Materials) will also be prohibited from **driving these vehicles for a period of 24 hours** if they present a blood alcohol concentration (BAC) **equal to or greater than 0.05**. However, this measure does not apply to combinations of vehicles consisting of a passenger vehicle towing a trailer or tent-trailer, nor to motorhomes. Remember that alcohol and drugs do not mix well with driving.



Electronic devices while driving.

Simply holding a portable electronic device while driving, regardless of how it is used, is against the law. However, this prohibition does not apply to the driver of an emergency vehicle while performing their duties.



Electronic devices while driving.



La loi vise tous les appareils, activés ou non, tels :

- Les téléphones cellulaires (y compris ceux avec une fonction émetteur-récepteur) ;
- Les lecteurs MP3 ou multimédias portables ;
- Les radios satellites portables ;
- Les tablettes électroniques ;
- Les écrans qui affichent des informations non utiles à la conduite ;
- Les appareils qui affichent les courriels et qui permettent de naviguer sur Internet.



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The meaning of the expression "while he is driving."

A driver who stops their vehicle to comply with signage or because they are facing an obstruction to traffic is still considered to be driving their vehicle. Indeed, the person is directing the vehicle in a manner that conforms to the signage or avoids traffic obstacles. Therefore, a person waiting at a red light or in a traffic jam is regarded as driving their vehicle and cannot use a handheld electronic device.

However, a driver who legally and safely stops their vehicle at the side of the road to use their portable electronic device is no longer considered to be driving, even if the vehicle's engine is still running.



CB allowed

Devices fixed to the vehicle, where only the microphone or the handset is held in hand, are not covered by the prohibition. The exemption here pertains to two-way radios using shortwave, which are wireless voice communication devices that do not allow the parties to speak simultaneously, commonly known as CB radios or walkie-talkies.



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Load restriction period during thaw

These restrictions apply throughout the entire territory of Quebec, but they vary from one region to another. To determine the maximum authorized weights during the thaw period, taking into account climatic differences, Quebec has been divided, as shown in the following illustration, into three main zones.

Zone 1

This zone covers southern Quebec, including major centers such as Gatineau, Montreal, Sherbrooke, Trois-Rivières, and Quebec City, extending to Rivière-du-Loup.



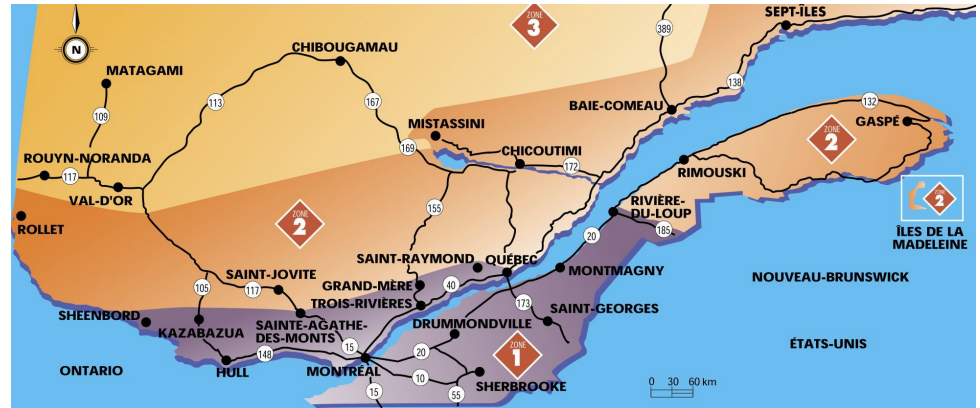
Load restriction period during thaw

Zone 2

Elle est située directement au nord de la zone 1 et inclut les réserves fauniques La Vérendrye et des Laurentides ainsi que le Témiscamingue, le Saguenay, le Lac-Saint-Jean, la Côte-Nord, Rimouski, la Gaspésie et les Îles-de-la-Madeleine.

Zone 3

Elle est située au nord de la zone 2 et inclut l'Abitibi, la région de Chibougamau-Chapais ainsi que la réserve faunique Ashuapmushuan.



Quebec Road Control

The Société de l'assurance automobile du Québec is responsible for inspecting vehicles used for the transportation of people and goods throughout the province of Quebec. It plays a crucial role within Quebec society, particularly in terms of road safety, infrastructure protection, and competitive fairness.

To fulfill its mandate, Quebec Road Control must ensure, among other things, that heavy vehicle operators comply with the laws and regulations that pertain to them, such as the Highway Safety Code, the Transportation Act, or the Act concerning owners, operators, and drivers of heavy vehicles.



Quebec Road Control

As a heavy vehicle driver, you may be subject to a road inspection. If this occurs, you must stop and assist the peace officer in their work.

This verification activity may specifically focus on the following points:

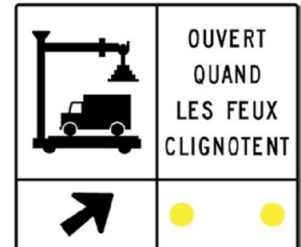
- The driver's license;
 - The vehicle registration;
 - The registration in the Register of Owners and Operators of Heavy Vehicles.
- The transport permit;
 - The bill of lading (information about the goods and the transport carried out);
 - The rental contracts;
 - The driving, working, and rest hours;
 - The safety check;
 - The mechanical condition;
 - The weights and dimensions;
 - The registration with Revenu Québec (International Fuel Tax Agreement [IFTA]);
 - The securing of loads;
 - The transportation of hazardous materials;
 - Compliance with traffic rules.

Mandatory stops at road checkpoints

You must stop at a checkpoint when the lights on the traffic sign are flashing if you are driving:

- A vehicle with a gross vehicle weight rating (GVWR) of 4,500 kg or more, designed and equipped primarily for the transportation of goods or for transporting equipment that is permanently fixed to it;
- **A tow truck or service vehicle;**
- **A combination of road vehicles (for example, a truck with a trailer) where at least one of the vehicles has a GVWR of 4,500 kg or more.**

Certain exceptions apply, particularly for trucks with a net weight of 4,000 kg or less registered as passenger vehicles under the registration regulations, or for road vehicles used for recreational purposes. **Even though the bus is subject to mechanical inspection rules, its driver is not required to stop at road checkpoints unless the bus is towing a trailer (reference page 185 of the C.V.L.).**



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Obligations

Various safety standards apply to road transportation, and the responsibilities that arise from them fall not only on the owners and operators of heavy vehicles but also on the drivers.

Thus, the drivers of the following vehicles are subject to the same obligations, regardless of the class of license they hold:

- Equipment transport vehicle with a GVWR of 4,500 kg or more;
- **Emergency vehicle** with a GVWR of 4,500 kg or more;
- Combination of road **vehicles consisting of at least one vehicle with a GVWR of 4,500 kg or more;**
- **Tow truck** (regardless of its GVWR);
- **Bus** (regardless of its GVWR);
- **Vehicle transporting hazardous materials requiring hazard placards (regardless of its GVWR).**

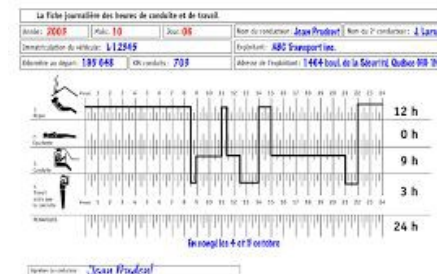
Safety check

- Perform a visual and auditory inspection of the condition of your vehicle and note your observations (minor or major defects) in the safety check report.
- Keep the safety check report up to date.
- Keep the safety check report on board the vehicle.
- Report in writing any obvious anomalies of the vehicle.
- Drive a vehicle that has no major defects.

All of the mentioned points are important.

Driving and rest hours

Unless exempted, accurately keep and retain in the vehicle the daily logs of driving and rest hours for the previous 14 days, regardless of the cycle followed.



Vehicle Registration

Have the vehicle registration certificate and the insurance certificate in your possession.



The vehicle and the equipment

Buckle the seatbelt and do not drive a vehicle with a missing, modified, or non-functional seatbelt.

- Use, if applicable, a flashing yellow light or a beacon in accordance with the conditions stated on the special circulation permit.
- Place a red flag or a reflective sign and, at night, a visible red light at the end of a load that extends more than one meter beyond the rear of the vehicle.
- Have emergency equipment on board the vehicle (warning triangle and reflectors, flares, or lamps).



In case of an accident

The Highway Safety Code imposes responsibilities on anyone involved in an accident. In such a situation, you are required to remain at the scene of the accident or return there immediately. If there are any injuries, you must provide the necessary assistance and call the police. You must also provide the information required by the peace officer who arrives at the scene of the accident.



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