

HAPPY MOTORING in Québec!



Québec 

HAPPY MOTORING IN QUÉBEC!

Whether you are in Québec on vacation or business, you may well need information about the main rules for road use in this province, as set forth in the **Highway Safety Code**.

OBLIGATIONS

Seat

belts

The Code requires that the driver and passengers in a motor vehicle wear a properly fastened seat belt at all times.

Child

seats

Children whose sitting height is less than 63 cm must be securely held in a car seat that is suitable to the child's size and weight. Follow the manufacturer's installation instructions shown on the seat.



This folder is intended to help you avoid problems so that your stay will be a pleasant and memorable one.

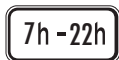
City buses



In the city, you must yield the right of way to a bus whose driver wants to get back in the lane the bus was using before stopping. City buses bearing the sign have priority.



Some urban areas have reserved lanes for buses and taxis, with the time of day indicated when this is in effect.



OBLIGATIONS

Pedestrians and cyclists

have the right on way

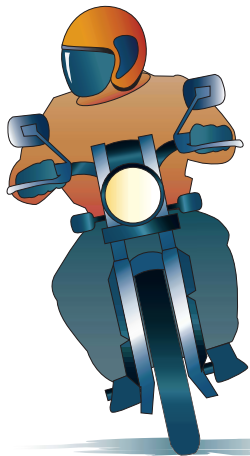
After making a stop or turn, or entering or leaving a driveway, you must yield to pedestrians and bicycle riders. You must also yield to them when they are crossing on a green traffic light.

Motorcycles

and mopeds

As a motorcycle or moped operator you are required to:

- wear a helmet when riding;
- ride with the front headlight on at all times;
- carry a passenger only if the vehicle is equipped with a fixed seat designed for that purpose and foot-pegs on either side;
- avoid riding between lines of vehicles;
- ride in staggered formation when traveling in a group (two or more bikes).



PROHIBITIONS

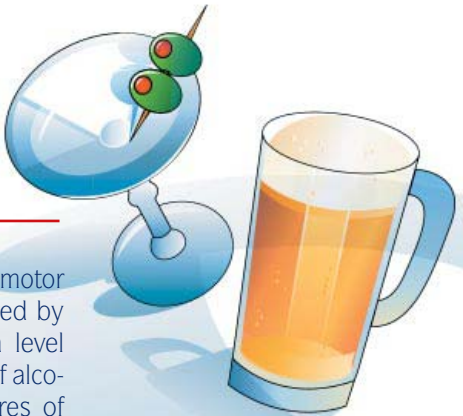
Driving without a valid licence

If you are driving without a valid driver's licence, or one of a class that does not authorize the operation of that type of vehicle, you could have the vehicle seized for 30 days. A seized vehicle is towed and impounded at the owner's expense. The Highway Safety Code also provides for a fine.

Alcohol and driving

When you operate a motor vehicle while impaired by drugs or alcohol (a level over 80 milligrams of alcohol per 100 millilitres of blood (0.08) you commit an offence under the Highway Safety Code. You are subject to **driver's licence suspension on the spot** for 30 days for a first offence.

A conviction under **Canada's Criminal Code** results in driver's licence revocation for one year, a criminal record and a fine. In certain situations, the offender may be imprisoned.



PROHIBITIONS

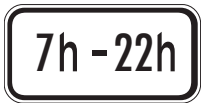
Restrictions

on turning right at a red light



Whether driving or riding a bicycle, you may turn right on a red light in Québec **except on the island of Montréal and at intersections where a sign prohibits it.**

This road sign, near a traffic light, indicates that turning right on red is prohibited.



Tabs underneath show when the prohibition applies for a set amount of time. In this example it is not allowed from 7 am to 10 pm.

Passing prohibited

You are not allowed to pass a vehicle across:



- a single solid line in the middle of the roadway



- double solid lines

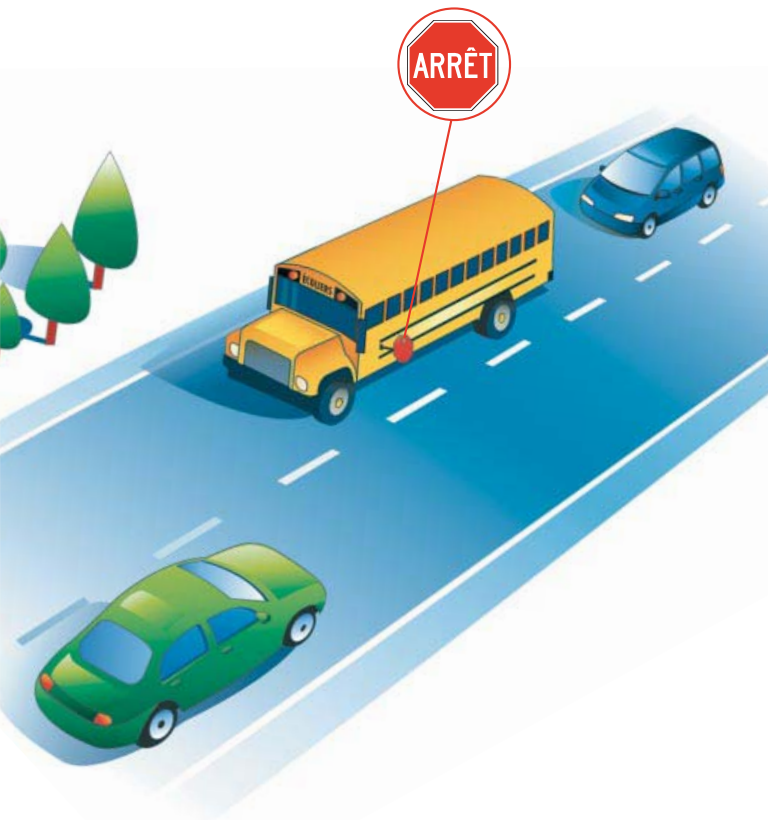


- a double line formed by a broken line and a solid line which is on your side of the roadway.

No passing is allowed on the right, unless the other vehicle is making a left-hand turn.

School buses

Meeting or passing a school bus or minibus carrying schoolchildren is prohibited when its stop arm is extended or red lights flashing.



You must **stop** at least five metres away (unless the lanes are separated by a median). Make sure the flashing lights are no longer in operation and the stop arm is withdrawn before you proceed.



In-line skates

and skateboards

The use of in-line skates and skateboards is not allowed on the roadway.

Earphones

and headphones

Using earphones or headphones while operating a motor vehicle or riding a bicycle is prohibited.

Radar

detectors

Having a radar detector in a vehicle is strictly prohibited in Québec. Driving a vehicle with a radar detector is an offence, for which you can be fined.

Police officers are authorized to confiscate any radar warning device.

Speed

Speed limits in Québec are posted in **kilometres per hour**.

APPROXIMATE EQUIVALENCE

Kilometres/hour	Miles per hour
30	20
50	30
60	40
70	45
90	55
100	60

In case of accident

If you are the **owner, driver or passenger of a motor vehicle registered in Québec** you are entitled to the same compensation as are Quebecers for bodily injury sustained in a road accident.

On the other hand, if you are involved in a road accident as a **pedestrian, cyclist, driver or passenger of a motor vehicle not bearing a Québec licence plate** you will be compensated in inverse proportion to your share of fault. In other words, the greater your share of responsibility, the less compensation you will receive.

The Société de l'assurance automobile du Québec will recover the sums, in inverse proportion of blame, from you or your insurer it paid in compensation to other victims of an accident. For this reason, it is important that you check your insurance policy for coverage in the event of injury to others.

Québec's public automobile insurance plan administered by the SAAQ pays compensation only for bodily injury. You must have **third-party liability insurance coverage of at least \$50,000** for property damage that might be caused in the event of an accident.

What To Do if You Are Injured in an Accident

1. Call the **police (911)** so a report can be made of the accident;
2. See a **physician** without delay and have all signs of injury entered on the doctor's report. Make sure the report will be sent to the SAAQ;
3. Contact the **SAAQ's claimant information service** as soon as possible by telephoning toll free:
 - **1 888 810-2525** from within Québec
 - 1-800-463-6898 from elsewhere in Canada or from the United States

or by writing to :

Société de l'assurance automobile du Québec
Direction de l'indemnisation
Case postale 2500, Terminus postal
Québec (Québec)
G1K 8A2

4. Notify your **insurer** of any property damage caused.
5. Keep all **supporting documents** concerning the accident.

Parking for the disabled



Some spaces are reserved for the use of disabled persons who have a parking permit. Those spaces are easily identified with a specific sign to help motorists. Failure to respect this regulated parking is punishable by a fine.

Reciprocal agreements with Ontario and the states of New York and Maine

The Québec government has entered into reciprocal agreements with Ontario and the states of New York and Maine, under which residents of those jurisdictions found guilty of a Highway Safety Code offence in Québec have it entered on their record, just as if it had been committed at home. Failure to pay a fine for a Code offence could result in suspension of the right to drive in Québec.

**For further information on the
Highway Safety Code and
Québec regulations, telephone :**

(514) 873-7620 in Montréal
(local call);

(418) 643-7620 in Québec
(city and vicinity); or

1-800-361-7620, toll free,
from elsewhere in the province.

Internet: www.saaq.gouv.qc.ca

Version française disponible sur demande.

4th quarter 2003

*This folder is not a text of law. For questions of a
legal nature, please refer to the Highway Safety
Code and attendant regulations.*