

Driving without a  
**V A L I D** licence

=

vehicle  
**S E I Z U R E**



*Société de l'assurance  
automobile*

Québec





Someone driving without a valid driver's licence who is intercepted by a police officer could have the vehicle seized and impounded **for 30 DAYS**. If the vehicle does not belong to the driver, the offender **must advise the owner without delay**.

# A vehicle is subject to **SEIZURE**:



## if the driver's licence

- has been revoked or temporarily suspended
- has expired
- does not authorize the driving of that type of vehicle
- does not bear an endorsement for driving that type of heavy vehicle

## if the person driving does not

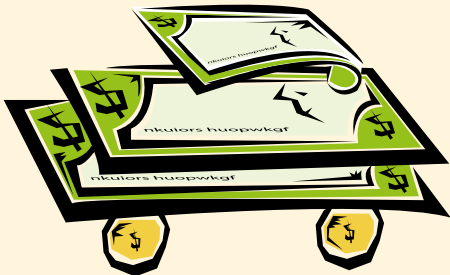
- hold a licence
- comply with the requirement to use an alcohol ignition interlock or observe the conditions for use of the device
- comply with certain licence conditions.

## **TOWING** and **IMPOUNDING** charges



A seized vehicle is towed and impounded **at the owner's expense**.

The vehicle owner will be charged around \$325 for **towing** and **impoundment** for 30 days.



## **FINE** payable

Under the Highway Safety Code, anyone who drives **without holding a valid licence** is subject to a fine, as is the vehicle **owner or lessee** who allows someone without a valid licence to drive the vehicle.

## Driving while disqualified or allowing someone disqualified to drive

### Fine

(SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

Following licence revocation	• on conviction of a driving-related <b>Criminal Code offence</b> , such as impaired driving	<b>\$1 500 to \$3 000</b>
	• on reaching the level of <b>15 demerit points</b> , for a driver's licence holder	<b>\$600 to \$2 000</b>
Following temporary licence suspension	• on reaching the level of <b>4 demerit points</b> , for the holder of a learner's or probationary licence	<b>\$600 to \$2 000</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>failure to pay a fine</b> for an offence under the Highway Safety Code or under a municipal traffic by-law</li><li>• driving or having care of a vehicle while <b>alcohol-impaired</b></li><li>• <b>refusal to provide a breath sample</b></li><li>• <b>for medical reasons</b></li></ul>	<b>\$300 to \$600</b>
	• driving without holding a licence of the <b>appropriate class or a licence bearing an endorsement</b> for driving that type of heavy vehicle.	<b>\$300 to \$600</b>

# VEHICLE recovery

Study of a completed **Application for Vehicle Release from Seizure** takes **three workdays** on average from the time it is received at the SAAQ.

- **Before expiry of the 30-day impoundment period**

The owner may recover the vehicle before the end of the period only on the order of a Court of Québec judge or a decision by the Société de l'assurance automobile du Québec (SAAQ).

To do so, the vehicle owner must:

- fill out the **Application for Vehicle Release from Seizure** (English version of the form Demande de mainlevée de saisie) available in any SAAQ service outlet or on the Web site: [www.saaq.gouv.qc.ca](http://www.saaq.gouv.qc.ca); or
- present a motion of release from seizure before the Court of Québec.

Once an application is granted, the owner presents the SAAQ's authorization to the pound custodian and recovers the vehicle on payment of towing and impounding charges. In the case of a court order, the owner must show the judgment.

- **At the end of the 30-days impoundment period**

The vehicle owner must contact the pound where the vehicle is being held, make an appointment and go pay the towing and impounding charges once seizure is lifted. The owner has ten (10) days from the end of impoundment to reclaim the vehicle.

- **What happens if an owner does not recover the vehicle within 10 days after the end of impoundment?**

The SAAQ sends a notice to the vehicle owner, and creditors with a claim on the vehicle of its intention to dispose of the vehicle after:

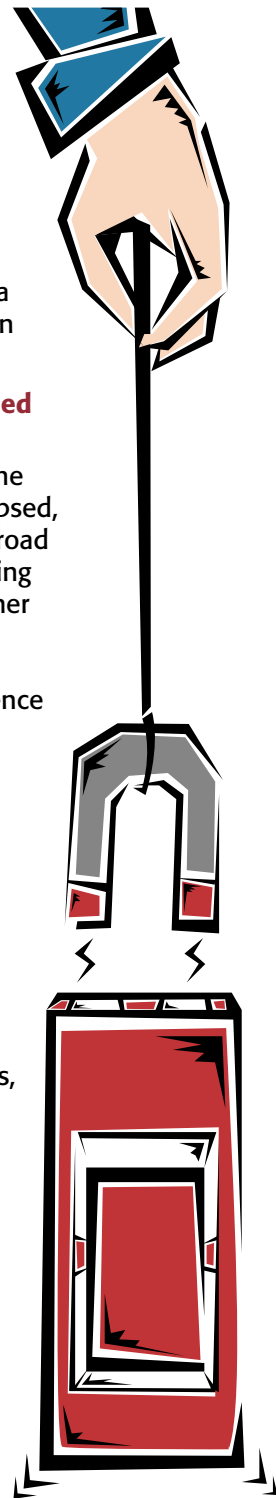
- at least 5 days for a vehicle valued at \$2,500 or less**

Should the owner fail to recover the vehicle by the end of the time elapsed, the vehicle will be removed from road use and ceded in payment of towing and impounding charges. The owner remains liable for payment of the SAAQ's administration expenses before again obtaining driver's licence or vehicle registration services.

- at least 10 days for a vehicle valued at more than \$2,500**

The SAAQ simultaneously publishes a newspaper notice in the owner's locality of its intention to dispose of the vehicle after 10 days have elapsed by auction sale. Proceeds from the sale will be used for payment of towing and impounding charges, and the Société's administration expenses and settlement of any lien on the vehicle, with the remainder going to the owner of the vehicle at the time of seizure.

**The pound custodian may release the vehicle to the owner only on the SAAQ's authorization.**



# Before **LENDING** or **RENTING** your vehicle

Did you know that a vehicle can be seized and impounded if the person driving does not hold a valid driver's licence? Before you lend or rent out your vehicle, it is possible to check the validity of the prospective driver's licence by telephone. This automated service made available by the SAAQ twenty-four hours a day allows you to find out by telephone (1-900-565-1212\*) if the prospective driver holds a **class of licence authorizing the operation of your type of vehicle**. The charge is **\$1.50 per call**. Before calling, have the driver's licence number at hand. This is shown on the licence; it starts with the first letter of the person's surname.

\* No access from a cellphone or public telephone.

For further information, telephone:

**(514) 873-7620** in Montréal;

**(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**



## Before **lending** or **renting** your vehicle

check the **validity of the driver's licence**

BY CALLING THE SAAQ AT

# 1 900 565-1212\*

Have the driver's licence number handy; this starts with the first letter of the person's surname.

A prudent step to avoid seizure of your vehicle, and towing and impounding charges.

(The charge is \$1.50 a call.)

\* No access from a cellphone or public telephone.

4th Quarter 2003 • Version française disponible sur demande.

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

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