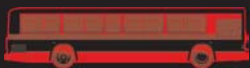


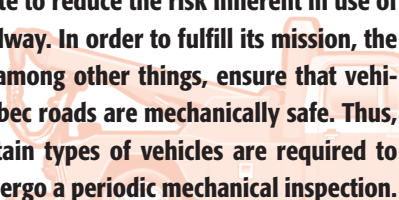
# Mechanical Inspection



Québec



**The Société de l'assurance automobile du Québec has the mandate to reduce the risk inherent in use of the public roadway. In order to fulfill its mission, the Société must, among other things, ensure that vehicles using Québec roads are mechanically safe. Thus, owners of certain types of vehicles are required to have them undergo a periodic mechanical inspection.**



## **MECHANICAL INSPECTION**

A mechanical inspection is a thorough examination of a vehicle's safety features by a licensed mechanic duly accredited by the Société de l'assurance automobile du Québec.

### **COMPONENTS TO BE INSPECTED**

The mechanic must inspect the following items:

- tires, wheels and rims;
- brakes and brake lines;
- emergency brakes;
- steering mechanism;
- suspension;
- seats and seat belts;
- exhaust system;
- windshields, windows, windshield washers and wipers;
- rearview mirrors;
- body;
- lights, reflectors and horn;
- fuel system;
- chassis and undercarriage;
- emergency equipment (if any);
- load space;
- trailer hitch.

Upon completion of the inspection, the accredited agent fills out a certificate, a copy of which is sent to the Société de l'assurance automobile du Québec. The agent keeps a copy of the certificate and gives two copies to the customer.

If the vehicle complies with the Highway Safety Code and the Regulation respecting safety standards for road vehicles, a mechanical inspection sticker is affixed on the vehicle.

# 1

Mechanical inspection is required every 6 months for:

- taxicabs;
- buses and minibuses;
- vehicles, other than motorcycles, that are used for instruction by a driving school;
- vehicles used for the transportation of schoolchildren.



If defects are noted on the inspection certificate, these must be repaired to the agent's satisfaction, who will then affix a sticker on the vehicle and return a signed copy of the certificate (the owner keeps his or her own) to the Société, establishing that the vehicle is in compliance with standards.

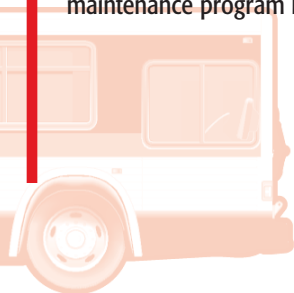
## 2

Mechanical inspection is required every 12 months for:

- emergency vehicles;
- vehicles with a net weight in excess of 3,000 kg;
- motorcycles used for instruction by a driving school;
- tow trucks.



The foregoing inspection procedure can be replaced by a carrier's preventive maintenance program that meets minimum standards prescribed by regulation. This substitution can take place once the carrier's preventive maintenance program has been certified by the Société.



# 3

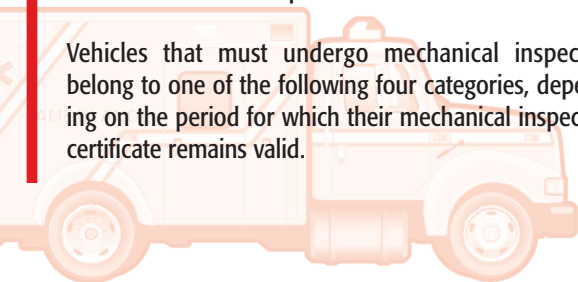
Mechanical inspection is required prior to use on public roads for:

- modified or transformed vehicles;
- all customized or specially crafted vehicles;
- all used vehicles from out of province that are to be registered in Québec;
- all vehicles stored for longer than twelve months and all vehicles formerly discarded or scrapped, regardless of the number of months;
- all vehicles not registered during more than twelve consecutive months for operation on a public roadway;
- a rebuilt vehicle for which a certificate of technical compliance has been issued.

## VEHICLES COVERED

The Regulation requires that owners of certain types of vehicles have them inspected.

Vehicles that must undergo mechanical inspection belong to one of the following four categories, depending on the period for which their mechanical inspection certificate remains valid.



# 4

Mechanical inspection is not required for motor homes, house trailers, tool vehicles, farm tractors, farm machinery, construction trailers and farm trailers as defined by regulation.

Every year, the Société de l'assurance automobile du Québec has its agents inspect thousands of vehicles referred to it by the Sûreté du Québec and municipal police forces.

### ATTENTION NEW VEHICLE OWNERS!

New vehicles that belong to the first category (e.g., taxicabs) must undergo their first mechanical inspection six months after acquisition. New vehicles that belong to the second category (e.g., trucks) must undergo their first mechanical inspection twelve months after acquisition.

New heavy vehicles likely to be used in other provinces should bear a safety inspection sticker since they are subject to mandatory mechanical inspection outside Québec.

## ACCREDITED AGENTS

Mechanical inspections must be carried out on the premises of an agent duly accredited by the Société de l'assurance automobile du Québec. Some agents are authorized to inspect their own vehicles; others are accredited to inspect light (3,000 kg and less) or heavy (over 3,000 kg) vehicles for a fee.

### LIST OF AGENTS

You can obtain the names, addresses and telephone numbers of accredited agents and general information on mandatory inspection or information on having the Société certify your preventive maintenance program, by calling:

- **(514) 873-7620**      **in Montréal;**
- **643-7620**            **in Québec City (local call);**  
or
- **1-800-361-7620**    **toll free, from elsewhere**  
                                 **in the province.**
  
- **Internet:**            **[www.saaq.gouv.qc.ca](http://www.saaq.gouv.qc.ca)**



# WHAT ARE THE POSSIBLE CONSEQUENCES OF A MECHANICAL INSPECTION?

## THE VEHICLE IS FOUND TO COMPLY WITH STANDARDS

If the vehicle meets standards set by the Highway Safety Code and the Regulation, the agent affixes a mechanical inspection sticker, valid for six or twelve months, depending on the type of vehicle; however, the vehicle can be required to undergo another inspection following a highway check.

## THE VEHICLE HAS AT LEAST ONE MINOR DEFECT

If the vehicle has at least one minor defect, the owner receives a 48-hour repair notice in the form of a mechanical inspection certificate indicating that the vehicle does not meet standards. The vehicle must then be repaired within the time limit, and be presented a second time to an agent before a certificate can be issued stating that the vehicle is up to standard and a sticker affixed to it.

If at the end of the time limit, the vehicle has not been shown to comply with Highway Safety Code and regulatory standards to the satisfaction of the agent or the Société's inspector, the notice becomes a Statement of Offence. The vehicle is then prohibited from highway use until repaired. Offenders are subject to heavy fines, both for each minor defect unrepaired within the forty-eight hours, and for travel with an inspection sticker that is no longer valid.



## THE VEHICLE HAS AT LEAST ONE MAJOR DEFECT

If the certificate states that the vehicle has at least one major defect, it will *IMMEDIATELY BE PROHIBITED FROM HIGHWAY USE*. Offenders are subject to heavy fines.

Once the major defect has been repaired, the vehicle must be shown to comply with Highway Safety Code and regulatory standards to the satisfaction of the agent or the Société's inspector. The agent will then issue a mechanical inspection certificate indicating that the vehicle meets Highway Safety Code and regulatory standards, give a copy to the owner, and affix the compliance sticker.

If the vehicle cannot be repaired, it must be scrapped or put away, and the Société de l'assurance automobile du Québec must be notified by the owner.

## WHAT HAPPENS IF THE VEHICLE IS NOT REPAIRED WITHIN THE PRESCRIBED TIME?

All certificates are sent to the Société de l'assurance automobile du Québec and kept on file.

If, within a short time, the Société receives no proof that the vehicle has been repaired, the certificate is sent to the Direction générale des infractions at the Ministère de la Justice which can issue a Statement of Offence. Furthermore, the Société's record will show a prohibition from use of the vehicle on the road until repairs have been satisfactorily made.

## TIPS TO REMEMBER

If your certificate states that repairs are required, be sure to have them completed in time and, if need be, insist upon it when agreeing to a work order at the garage.

Once the repairs are done, carefully note the following: the number of the inspection certificate, the date of the repair notice and the date at which the vehicle in question is certified having met the standards. Also, be sure to keep a copy of the certificate in effect.

Remember that if you scrap or put away any registered vehicle, you must notify the Société de l'assurance automobile du Québec as soon as possible, either by telephone or at a service outlet. You can find the address of the outlet nearest you in the blue pages of the telephone directory under Société de l'assurance automobile du Québec.

***Société de l'assurance  
automobile***

**Québec**



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La version française du dépliant est disponible sur demande.

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