



ROAD SAFETY

A HAND-HELD CELL PHONE:
ILLEGAL!

Québec 

A "HAND-HELD" CELL PHONE: **ILLEGAL!**

Driving an automobile requires your full attention and concentration. When you're at the wheel, you have to be constantly on the lookout for anything that might occur on the road unexpectedly. Use of a cell phone while driving, therefore, is a major distraction.

HAZARDS OF USING A CELL PHONE WHILE DRIVING

Driving while you're making a call increases the risk of an accident. According to a Québec study, the chance of having an accident rises 38% when drivers are using a cell phone. The likelihood of violating the Highway Safety Code (ex. running a red light, failing to obey a mandatory stop) also increases. The number of times a driver uses a cell phone also raises the risk: drivers who use a cell phone a lot run a higher risk of collision than occasional users.

Using a cell phone while driving affects how you drive and operate a vehicle :

- You react more slowly when braking in an emergency.
- You have difficulty driving in a straight line, avoiding obstacles on the road or maintaining a safe distance from other vehicles.
- You are less aware of what is happening around you, both inside and outside of the vehicle.
- Your field of vision is reduced.

That's why, effective April 1, 2008, use of a hand-held cell phone that does not have a "hands-free" function is prohibited while driving.

PENALTIES

Committing this type of offence will result in the following:

- a \$115 fine (including court costs)
- 3 demerit points.

WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW

- Drivers who are holding a cell phone in their hand are presumed to be using it.
- Any device that has a telephone function, such as a wireless information device (ex. BlackBerry), is deemed to be a cell phone and is therefore prohibited when it is held in the hand.

- To use a device with a telephone function, drivers must bring their vehicle to a stop in a location where parking is authorized.
- Except where necessary, no one is allowed to bring a vehicle to a stop on the shoulder of a highway, on a highway on-ramp or highway off-ramp.
- Drivers who are waiting at a red light or delayed in traffic are considered to be driving their vehicle.
- Use of a “hands-free” cell phone is permitted.

“HANDS-FREE”

Use of a “hands-free” cell phone or other device is permitted.

However, the simple fact of carrying on a telephone conversation is still a source of distraction that diverts the attention of the person behind the wheel. Despite the fact that a motorist’s hands are free to drive, using a “hands-free” device is not a risk-free option and is not advisable.

SAFETY TIPS

- Turn off your phone before setting off and let your voice mail take all messages.
- If you absolutely must use your phone, pull your vehicle into a location that does not pose a danger to you or others on the road:
 - to the side of the road where the speed limit is 70 km/h or less;
 - into a parking lot;
 - into a service area.
- Ask a passenger to answer or make the call for you.

WE ARE ALL RESPONSIBLE FOR
OUR CONDUCT ON THE ROAD

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Web site

www.saaq.gouv.qc.ca

Telephone:

Québec (city and vicinity): 418 643-7620

Montréal: 514 873-7620

Elsewhere: 1 800 361-7620, toll free
(Québec, Canada, USA)

TDD/TTY

For the hearing impaired

Montréal region: 514 954-7763

Elsewhere in Québec: 1 800 565-7763, toll free

Mailing address

Service de la gestion des sanctions des conducteurs

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automobile**

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