

SCREENS

**STEER CLEAR
OF
DISTRACTIONS!**



Operating an automobile requires your full attention and concentration. At the wheel, it's important to watch out for the unexpected on the road. Using a device with a display screen while driving, however, can be a distraction, despite the fact some devices are designed to help you drive.

If information displayed on a screen can be viewed from the driver's seat, use of a device is allowed only where a driver complies with conditions governing the installation and use of a screen.



If you have to program or enter information, do so **BEFORE** you take to the road.

Types of screens that are allowed

Screens that have been installed by the vehicle manufacturer or according to manufacturer instructions.

or

Screens that display only information used for driving:

- **vehicle conditions** (ex. tire pressure, fuel consumption);
- **vehicle use** (ex. electric or gas mode, four-wheel drive traction);
- **a vehicle's immediate surroundings** (ex. parking assistance system, pedestrian and animal detector);
- **road conditions** (ex. obstacles on the road, pavement condition, etc.);
- **weather conditions** (ex. visibility, temperature);
- **road network guide** (ex. directions on a GPS).

or

Screens that are used:

- by a law enforcement officer or driver of an emergency vehicle;
- to manage messages for business activities;
- to collect fares owed by a passenger of a vehicle;
- for public utilities business activities;
- for purposes of operating a telecommunications business.

Conditions for use of a screen:

A screen must be:

- **equipped with control keys that are easy to use, locate and access.**
- **mounted directly on a vehicle or held in place with a fixed mount.**

(A screen can be mounted by means of a suction cup, screw, velcro or glue. A screen holder with a weight at the base is not suitable because the weight can shift on the dashboard if the vehicle turns or stops suddenly.)

- **placed to ensure the driver can view it easily.**
(ex. a screen must be positioned as close as possible to the driver's line of sight so the driver does not have to shift positions or turn unnecessarily to view the screen.)
- **installed so as not to:**
 - **obstruct the driver's field of vision;**
 - **conceal indicators on the vehicle's instrument panel, such as the speedometer;**
 - **interfere with operation of the vehicle;**
 - **prevent operation of equipment or reduce its effectiveness**
(ex. interfere with airbag deployment);
 - **cause injury in an accident.**

Messages displayed must be:

- **short and easy to read;**
- **readable without interfering with driving;**
- **if the driver has a limited time to respond to an on-screen image, preceded or accompanied by an audible signal when a message is received and the ensuing response time must be sufficient;**
- **controllable by the driver, if information is removed or changed, except:**
 - if a message can be viewed again using simple controls **or**
 - if information is continuous, such as a satellite radio displaying song titles.

Important:

Always follow manufacturer instructions when installing and using a screen.



Types of screens that are prohibited

Any screen that can be viewed from the driver's seat and that does not comply with legislative provisions is prohibited.

For example:

- television,
- portable or hand-held computer (except in GPS mode),
- game screen,
- portable game console,
- digital camcorder,
- digital camera,
- MP3 or portable multimedia player,
- portable satellite radio,
- DVD player,
- cell phone screen (except a "hands-free" telephone service function).



To prevent distraction, in-car devices designed specifically for use in a vehicle (ex. GPS, satellite radio) are recommended. In-car devices have road safety features that other portable devices do not.



Penalties

Failure to comply with regulations concerning installation and use of a screen device in a vehicle is an offence that is punishable by a \$115 fine (including court costs).

A screen can be of valuable assistance to a driver, but keep your eyes on the road and steer clear of distractions!

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