

info SAAQ

www.saaq.gouv.qc.ca

NEWSLETTER NO.6

3rd quarter 2004

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Online Payment

These two financial institutions offer on-line payment options to renew your driver's licence, vehicle registration or handicapped parking sticker.

This service is available in addition to other methods of payment, including mail, counter service or an automatic banking machine at a branch of the financial institution and at a service outlet of the Société de l'assurance automobile du Québec.

Make it simple. Go to:
www.desjardins.com or
www.nbc.ca



Desjardins



**BANQUE
NATIONALE**



Pay your fines on time... and avoid trouble

If you commit a violation under the Highway Safety Code or a municipal traffic or parking bylaw and are issued a fine, make sure you pay the fine before the deadline.

Effective May 16, 2004, new legislation requires you to pay fines on time. Otherwise, you will be unable to register a vehicle at the time of purchase, sale or long-term lease. Your driver's licence may even be suspended and the operation of your vehicle prohibited.

Check First

Before buying, selling or leasing a vehicle, check that there are no hidden surprises by calling **1 900 565-1212**. Have the individual's driver's licence number on hand. This number begins with the first letter of his or her last name. Each call costs \$1.50. A simple inexpensive check for peace of mind.



A SUMMER PACE



Summer is a time for travel. During vacation, we seek out and explore new corners of the country. Despite fairer weather and excellent driving conditions, however, this is also the period when most fatal accidents occur.

To arrive at your destination safely, err on the side of caution. Don't drink and drive, and insist that your friends do not get behind the wheel if they've been drinking. Remember that travel a few km/h slower can make a real-life difference.

Use of a cellphone while driving can be a deadly distraction. If perchance you did not turn off your cellphone before setting out and you cannot avoid

answering or making a call, pull over into a spot that is safe for both you and other road users.

Buckling up remains important, no matter the distance to be covered or the speed of travel because seat belt use halves the risk of being killed or seriously injured in the event of a collision.

Drive safely and have a pleasant holiday!

Jacques Brind'Amour
Chairman and CEO

Under the Influence:



Alcohol begins to impair the senses well before the legal 0.08 limit. Depending on individual physical and mental makeup, alcohol, drug or medication use, stress and fatigue will affect different people to varying degrees. That's why there is no chart or tool that can tell you with certainty if you are impaired.

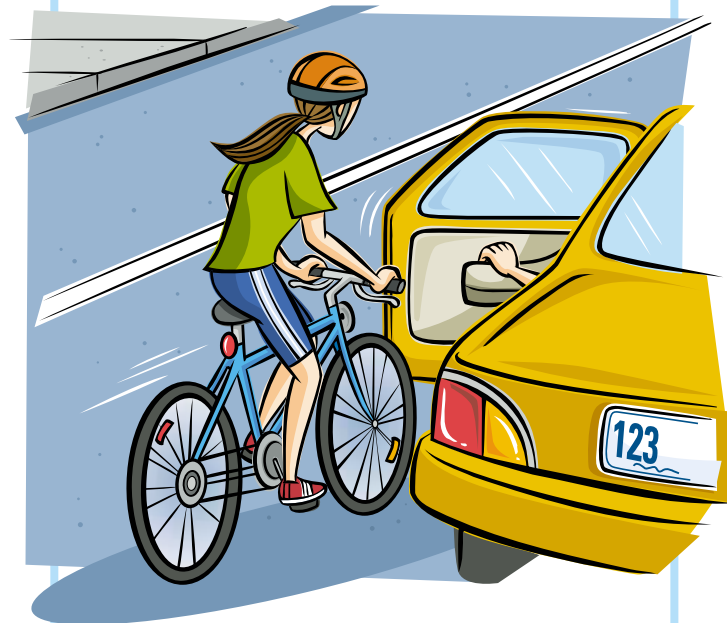
Alcohol and some drugs can create the impression that you are in full control of your actions, when quite the opposite is true. Why risk your life or the lives of others for a criminal record?

Rather than guess if you're okay to drive after drinking, plan ahead to use a safe means of transportation home. If you're with friends, they will more than likely agree to keep you overnight.

**A little?
A lot?**

Did you know that...

car doors strike fear in the heart of every cyclist? Each year, scores of accidents involving bicycles can be attributed to the carelessness of cyclists and motorists.



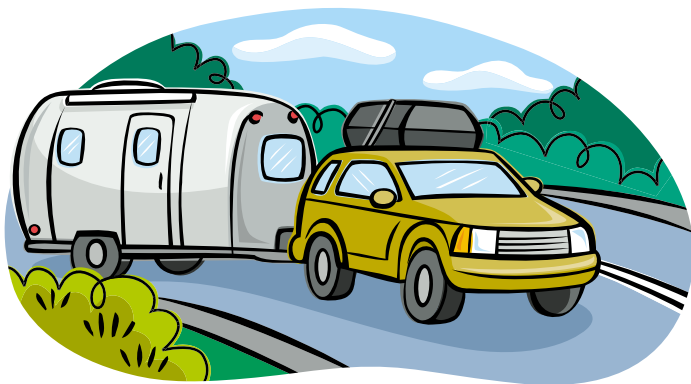
RECREATIONAL VEHICLES

If you are driving a motor home, caravan or pulling a camper, travel trailer or tent trailer, a regular class 5 licence is all you need to drive or pull this type of vehicle.

A brief review of safety rules:

SEATBELT

When a vehicle is in motion, all passengers must wear a seatbelt.



CHILDREN

A child whose sitting height is less than 63 cm must ride in a child safety seat. A child's height is calculated from the buttocks to the top of the head. The seat must be adapted to his or her size and weight and must be secured on a car seat that is fitted with a seatbelt. A child with a sitting height of 63 cm or over can sit directly on the car seat and use the vehicle's seat belt.

VISIBILITY

There must be no obstruction of a driver's field of vision, nor the lights in front or rear.

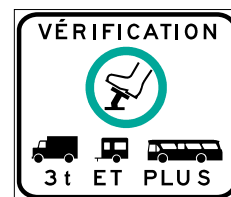
ALCOHOL

Occupants are prohibited from drinking alcohol in a parked or moving vehicle on a public road or off-road route. This also applies to parking lots at shopping centres or roadside rest areas.

BRAKE CHECK AREAS

Recreational vehicles and vehicle combinations weighing over 3,000 kg are required to stop at mandatory brake check areas located at the top of a steep incline.

This road sign indicates a mandatory brake check area.



PROPANE TANKS

Safety standards prohibit the transportation of propane tanks in a vehicle's cab. Tanks must be transported in an airtight compartment with an outdoor vent. Tanks may also be secured to the back and outside of a vehicle, in a metal cage for protection, also with an outdoor vent, in the event of an impact or collision.

Helmet use in Quebec

A recent SAAQ province-wide survey revealed that the proportion of cyclists who wear helmets was highest in Outaouais (approximately 45%) and that helmet use among in-line skaters was reportedly higher in Saguenay–Lac-Saint-Jean (39%).

Remember

Passengers are prohibited from riding in a trailer or camper that is in motion.



Move with a minimum of worries

Do you plan on renting a truck?

Before anything else, make sure you have the right class of driver's licence.

Indeed, to drive a two-axle truck with a net weight of 4,500 kg or more, you must hold a Class 3 licence.



If the rented truck weighs less than 4,500 kg, a regular Class 5 licence is acceptable.

If you operate a vehicle weighing more than 3,000 net kg, you must stop at the Société's weigh-stations when they are open.

Are you moving with just a trailer?

Be careful with how you load your belongings. Tie them down securely or cover everything so that nothing will move or fall off. Make sure that nothing blocks the driver's field of vision, that the tail-end brake lights are not covered, and that the



weight of the load is well distributed in the trailer. And remember that no one can be seated in a moving trailer.

During the traditional moving period, the Société's carrier enforcement officers are especially vigilant. Don't run the risk of getting a fine ranging between \$90 and \$600.

For more information, in French, go to:
www.saaq.gouv.qc.ca/lourds/demenagement.html

CHANGE OF ADDRESS VIA THE INTERNET

It is possible to change your address online. Simply go to the home page of our Web site at www.saaq.gouv.qc.ca.

Rapid, reliable and efficient, this service allows you to change your address for the following documents:

- Driver's licence
- Vehicle registration (when you are a vehicle's sole owner)
- Parking permits for handicapped people
- Compensation file if you have been the victim of a road accident.

Visit our Web site for more information, in French, about:

Child car seats. Is your child right up there?

■ www.saaq.gouv.qc.ca/prevention/sieges/

Driver fatigue. Keeping your eyes wide open.

■ www.saaq.gouv.qc.ca/prevention/fatigue_volant/

Modified vehicles. Caution required.

■ www.saaq.gouv.qc.ca/dossier/vehicules_modifies/

Patience and courtesy at the wheel.

■ www.surete.qc.ca/prevention/impatience_com.html

Alcohol-impaired driving.

■ www.saaq.gouv.qc.ca/prevention/alcool/

