

info SAAQ

www.saaq.gouv.qc.ca

NEWSLETTER NO.8

1st quarter 2005

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A turn of the key

Winter is howling at the door, it's a reality we have to accept! For many of us, it's the season we remote-start our vehicle and idle the engine to warm it up, sometimes for many long minutes.

Did you know that this action, repeated daily, is harmful to the environment? Not to mention the role it plays in contributing to smog, climate change and acid rain...

The advantages of short-idling an engine

- it reduces gas consumption;
- it saves money;
- it reduces engine wear;
- it also protects public health, because your vehicle is not emitting carbon dioxide (CO₂), the principal greenhouse gas involved in climate change.

A few tips

- 1 After you start the vehicle, avoid accelerating quickly during the first few kilometres to allow the moving parts of your engine to warm up.
- 2 Turn off the engine if you are parked for longer than 10 seconds.
- 3 Avoid using a remote starter.
- 4 In cold weather, use a timer and engine block heater. Have the block heater come on 2 hours before you're ready to start the car.

Something to consider

An idling engine consumes on average 1.8 l. of gas per hour.



Longer hours to reach us

On October 4, 2004, our Monday to Friday call centre hours were extended:

- **8 am to 5:30 pm for general information**
an additional 12 hours and 30 minutes each week
- **8:30 am to 5 pm for accident victims' compensation**
an additional 7 hours and 30 minutes each week

READY FOR WINTER?



In winter, adapting one's driving to the prevailing conditions is important. The variety of weather systems that can affect road conditions underscores the need to be prepared for winter driving, and to exercise caution.

So, before heading out, take the time to remove snow and ice from your vehicle. Reduce your travel speed and keep a greater distance from the vehicle ahead. Watch out for schoolchildren and other pedestrians; their safety may hinge on your alertness.

With cellphone use being recognized as a major source of distraction to drivers, its best position is "off" before you get behind the wheel¹.

To serve the public better, we have extended the business hours of our call centre. For information on these hours, check out: To Contact Us in this issue.

This winter, be on your guard!

Jacques Brind'Amour
Chairman and Chief Executive Officer

1. Although not a topic broached in this issue, a reminder can only serve all road users well.

CHECK YOUR DRIVING KNOWLEDGE

You are at the wheel of your vehicle. You are about to make a right-hand turn. The orange pedestrian walk signal is on, but a pedestrian is crossing the intersection. What are you required to do?

- A** Yield the right-of-way to the pedestrian crossing the intersection.
- B** Sound your horn.
- C** Make sure that the pedestrian allows you to go through.

The correct answer is A. You must yield the right-of-way to pedestrians who are crossing an intersection, even if they fail to respect the signal warning them not to enter the intersection.

Whether you are an experienced or novice driver, test your driving knowledge by taking the quiz at: www.saaq.gouv.qc.ca/en/

Worldwide protection

Whether you're a driver, passenger, pedestrian, cyclist or motorcyclist, if you're injured in a traffic accident anywhere in the world, you are covered. Thanks to the protection Québec's public automobile insurance plan provides, all Quebecers are insured, regardless of fault.

Who handles compensation ...

...for bodily injuries?

The SAAQ awards you compensation if you sustain injuries in a road accident.

...for property damage?

Your private insurance company compensates for damage to your vehicle.



Think ahead! If you drink, you can't drive.

Sharing a drink with friends, celebrating a birthday, enjoying a drink over a good meal, reconnecting with an old acquaintance, celebrating a promotion, gathering for an after work get together, or a Christmas office party, there are any number of reasons to have a drink!

Enjoyable moments of relaxation, however, can turn into an ordeal if you mix drinking with driving. Alcohol and driving an automobile are incompatible! That's why, before even going to a party, it is important to plan how you will get home.

Prevent the worst from happening

Before you begin to drink:

- designate a driver who will stay sober to take you home
- call a taxi, to get to where you're going and to get home
- note the number to call for the services of an impaired driver escort
- if you're at a friend's, ask to stay over.

If you drink, you can't drive.



Is the engine capacity of your vehicle 4 litres or over?

Vehicles from model years 1995 onward equipped with a motor that has a cylinder displacement of 4 litres or more become subject to an additional registration fee. This affects:

- passenger vehicles
- commercial vehicles
- motor homes

Vehicles adapted for transporting a wheelchair-bound person are exempt from the additional fee.

This measure in the 2004-2005 Québec government budget is intended to favour the reduction of tailpipe emissions that pollute and contribute to greenhouse gases.

To find out more, go to:

www.saaq.gouv.qc.ca/en/vehicule_registration/cylindersize.html

Additional Registration Fee

Cylinder displacement (in litres)	Fee (\$)
4.0*	30
4.0*	30
4.1	40
4.2	50
4.3	60
4.4	70
4.5	80
4.6	90
4.7	100
4.8	110
4.9	120
5.0	130
5.1	140
5.2 and more	150

* Vehicles with an engine capacity of 3.95 litres through 3.99 l are considered vehicles of 4.0 l and hundredths of litres are rounded off to the next highest tenth of a litre starting from .05 (ex.: 4.055 l is rounded off to 4.1 l).

Courtesy to the disabled

Think twice before you park your vehicle in a disabled parking space.

Disabled persons require these parking spaces in order to go about their daily activities. Respect their needs!



Are the days of your vehicle numbered?

It can help save lives

Donate your car to The Kidney Foundation of Canada's Kidney-Car Program. You will be contributing to research and help the many thousands of Quebecers who suffer from kidney disease. An income tax receipt will be issued for your donation and your vehicle will be recycled!

To find the Kidney-Car number for your region call:

1 888 228-8673 OR

GO TO: www.kidneyquebec.ca

For more information on donating your old vehicle, contact the SAAQ, the Corporation des concessionnaires d'automobiles du Québec or CAA-Québec.

DID YOU KNOW THAT

Thanks to the Kidney-Car Program The Kidney Foundation of Canada has given new life to over 20,000 vehicles since 1998.

Time really does count...

If you have been fined for an offence under the Highway Safety Code or a municipal traffic or parking bylaw, better **make payment by the due date**, otherwise:

- a vehicle you sell, or one bought or leased in your name cannot be registered;
- and
- your driver's licence could be suspended and travel with your vehicle prohibited.

Think about it!

1 900 565-1212... for your own protection

Call the telephone number anytime:

- to check an individual's right to register a vehicle before its sale or purchase is completed or
- to check that a prospective driver's licence is valid before lending or renting your vehicle to the individual, knowing that if someone is caught driving without a valid licence, the vehicle can be seized.

Before calling 1 900 565-1212:

- have at hand the driver's licence number of the individual to whom you want to sell, rent or lend a vehicle. The number begins with the first letter of the person's surname;
- remember that there is a charge of \$1.50 per call.

A simple, inexpensive way to peace of mind.

OWNERS OF ALL TERRAIN VEHICLES (ATV) AND SNOWMOBILES

ARE YOU PROPERLY INSURED?

For others...

The Act respecting off-highway vehicles requires you to take out third-party liability insurance in an amount not less than \$500,000. Offered by private insurers, this insurance covers damage caused by your off-road vehicle to others.

For yourself...

When the SAAQ issues a licence plate for your ATV or snowmobile, it does not collect payment of an insurance premium under Québec's public plan.

It therefore does not pay compensation for injuries sustained in an accident involving an ATV or snowmobile, except if there is a collision with a moving passenger vehicle or truck.

To be eligible for compensation for your own bodily injuries or property damage, you must procure supplementary insurance from your insurer. Injuries or damage that are caused by another driver are covered by his or her liability insurance.

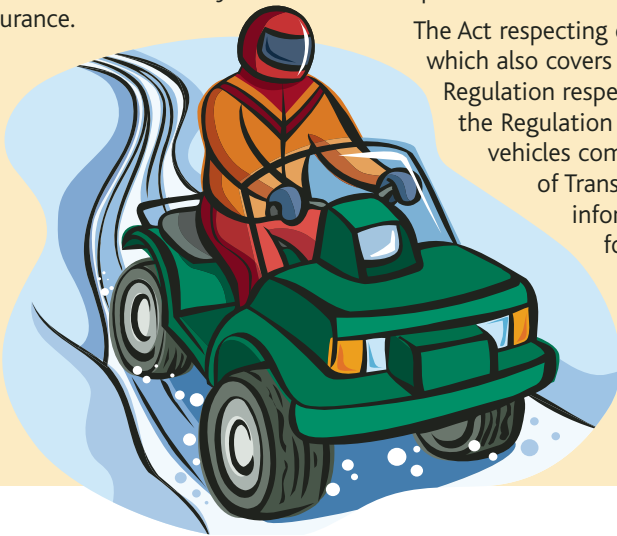


Driving prohibited for those under age 14

A driver must be at least age 14 and hold a class 6D licence to operate an ATV or snowmobile. Between the ages of 14 and 16, drivers must hold a competency certificate too, which may be obtained after taking training provided by a Québec snowmobile club (Fédération des clubs de motoneigistes du Québec) or quad club (Fédération québécoise des clubs quads).

The Act respecting off-highway vehicles, which also covers motocross bikes, the Regulation respecting snowmobiles and the Regulation respecting all-terrain vehicles come under the authority of Transport Québec. For more information, visit the following Web site:

www.mtq.gouv.qc.ca/en/





T H I S W I N T E R

Before taking to the road:

- keep the essentials in your vehicle: a snow brush, windshield scraper and shovel
- ensure that your heater and window defroster are working properly
- clear snow and ice from your vehicle

On the road, do not follow too closely. Keep a safe distance between you and the vehicle ahead.

Failure to remove snow and ice from your vehicle can result in a

\$60 to \$100
fine!



Did you know that?

- Winter tires outperform all-season tires
- All-season tires lose their adherence at -15°C and winter tires at -40°C

Heavy Vehicle Drivers, Slow Down!

Braking on a slippery road makes handling a heavy vehicle difficult. At least twice the normal braking distance may be required to brake safely.

Remember:

- on a wet road, reduce your speed by one-third;
- on snow, reduce it by half;
- on ice, reduce it even more.

TO CONTACT US

Call centres

Monday through Friday

General information: from 8 am to 5:30 pm

Accident victims' compensation: 8:30 am to 5 pm

Automated telephone response

During call centre hours of operation, people can also access services using the automated response system.

You can, without charge:

- make, check, change or cancel a driving test appointment;
- cancel your driver's licence;
- notify us of storage of your vehicle;
- order a copy of your driving record;
- have your change of address recorded;
- find out the location and business hours of SAAQ service centres.

Outside of office hours, do not hesitate to use our automated telephone response system.

Monday through Friday, from 7:30 to 8:30 am and from 4:30 to 11 pm

Saturday, from 7:30 am to 11 pm

Sunday, from noon to 11 pm

Phone

(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.

Monday through Saturday, from 7 am to 11 pm

Sunday, from noon to 11 pm



Go to www.saaq.gouv.qc.ca/en/ to conduct these operations online:

- pay for renewal of your driver's licence, vehicle registration or disabled parking permit;
- order a copy of your driving record;
- notify us of vehicle discarding;
- notify us of storage of your vehicle.

Online payment

Use the online payment services of these two financial institutions to pay for the following:

Use the online payment services of these two financial institutions to pay for the following:

- your driver's licence
- vehicle registration or
- disabled parking permit

This feature has been added to the other payment options available, which include the postal service, financial institutions or their automated tellers, by going to one of the SAAQ's service outlets and through its Web site.

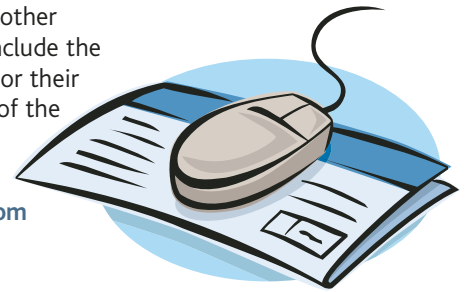
To sign up, go to: www.desjardins.com
or: www.nbc.ca



Desjardins AccèsD
and AccèsD Affaires Internet



National Bank
Personal Internet Banking
Solutions and Internet
Banking Solutions Inc.



Have you missed an issue?

The Info SAAQ newsletter is published quarterly. The latest issue is enclosed when you receive a payment notice to renew the following:

- Driver's licence;
- Vehicle registration.

To consult the electronic editions of all issues in PDF format, go to: www.saaq.gouv.qc.ca/en/infosaaq/

Change of address online

Go to the SAAQ home page at www.saaq.gouv.qc.ca/en/ and click on Change of Address to have your address change recorded for the following:

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

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E-mail any comments to us at: courrier@saaq.gouv.qc.ca.

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Société de l'assurance
automobile

Québec

