

WWW.Saaq.gouv.qc.ca NEWSLETTER NO. 15 4th quarter 2006

Fall In Safely!

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SPEEDY? Your load of stress could injure someone.

Don't let your cellphone drive you

1 Shut off your phone and let your voice mail take your calls.2 If you really have to answer the phone or call out, stow the phone in a safe place. If you have a passenger, ask him/her to answer or make the call for you.

3 Consider preprogramming the numbers you call often.

on the **road...**

- **4** Avoid conversations that are too stressfull or emotional.
- **5** Be brief and avoid useless calls!



- TAKE IT EASY.

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.

Before you drink, think ahead!

- Designate a driver who will stay sober to take you home;
- if you're at a friend's, ask to stay over;
- plan on taking a taxi or public transit;



 or call on the services of an impaired driver escort such as Opération Nez rouge or Tolérance Zéro.



COVERED ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD

Whether you're a **driver**, **passenger**, **pedestrian**, **cyclist**, **moped rider** or **motorcyclist**, you are covered if you're injured in a traffic accident anywhere in the world.

Thanks to the protection **Québec's Public Automobile Insurance Plan** provides, all Quebecers are insured, regardless of fault.



QUICK'N EASY!

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

- have your change of address recorded;
- make, change, check or cancel an appointment for a driving test – knowledge or road test;
- **pay for renewal** (if you are a member of the Caisses Desjardins or a client of the National Bank of Canada) of your:
 - driver's licence;
 - vehicle registration;
 - disabled parking permit;
- check the validity of a driver's licence;
- check if a vehicle can be licensed;
- get a copy of your driving record;
- get a copy of your compensation record;
- notify us of storage of your vehicle;
- have your vehicle removed from storage and licensed for road use;
- notify us of vehicle discarding.

These services are available online:

Monday through Saturday, from 7 am to 11 pm and Sunday, from noon to 11 pm

A modified driver's licence

Mindful of the **quality** and **security** of its products, the SAAQ has made recent improvements to driver's licences, probationary licences and taxi driver licences.

Your new licence has the benefit of:

- a new more durable material and
- superior print quality.

Who handles compensation?

- If you are injured, it is the SAAQ.
- If the vehicle is damaged, it is your private insurance company. To find out more about Québec's Public Automobile Insurance Plan, go to: www.saaq.gouv.qc.ca/en/accident_victim/

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Demerit points

How many demerit points could be entered on your driving record if **you fail to wear your seat belt**?

ANSWER: 3 POINTS

Remember:

Those points remain on your driving record for 2 years.

A clear view, a question of safety!

Did you know that tinting of a vehicle's windows on either side of the driver is **prohibited** if less than 70% of light (as measure by a photometer) can filter through?

Automobile windows are already tinted by the manufacturer when a vehicle rolls off the assembly line. Should you add a tint to the windows, less than 70% of light may be getting through, and your safety would be at risk. If light transmittance is less than 70%, you will be liable for a minimum **fine of \$100**.

If there is any doubt, the law allows a police officer to issue an **inspection notice**. This notice will require you to go to a mechanical inspection agent certified by the SAAQ, to determine if your vehicle windows comply with safety standards.

Will you soon be turning 75?

As a driver's licence holder, you must undergo a **medical and vision examination** at age 75, at 80 and then every two years thereafter.



Do it safely, by ensuring that: • the coupling system and safety chains are in good condition, firmly attached and used correctly;

 your vehicle and trailer are in good operating condition and have been inspected by a professional.



- A Indicates that you have just passed a school bus stop.
- **B** Indicates the possible presence of a school bus stopped to pick up or drop off children.
- This sign is installed 1 km from every Québec school.

The correct answer is B. Indicates the possible presence of a school bus stopped to pick up or drop off children.

For more on road signs and traffic signals: www.mtq.gouv.qc.ca

CHECK YOUR DRIVING KNOWLEDGE

You are parked by the curb and are about to get out of your vehicle. What must you do before getting out?

- Open the door to check in back.
- Check your inside rearview mirror.
- Check your rearview mirrors and blind spot.

The correct answer is C. Check your rearview mirrors and blind spot Before opening the door, you must check your rearview mirrors and blind spot to make sure no other vehicle or no cyclist is nearby.

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

THIS AUTUMN, BE SAFETY CONSCIOUS!



Each day, approximately ten pedestrians are involved in traffic accidents throughout Québec.

Before you cross:

- Go to the nearest intersection or pedestrian crosswalk;
- take a moment to check the traffic to make sure you can walk across safely;
- look left, right, then left again;

- look over your shoulder to check that no vehicles behind you are about to turn right;
- establish eye contact with drivers to make sure they see you.

YOU'RE MEETING OR FOLLOWING A SCHOOL BUS?

Remember:

- **1** prepare to stop when it has its **amber lights flashing** or **hazard lights** in operation;
- **2** stop your vehicle at least five metres from the bus when it has its **red lights flashing** or its **stop sign** extended.

DID YOU KNO<mark>W THAT...?</mark>

Notching up the speed of your vehicle's windshield wipers is a good idea before you are about to meet a heavy vehicle in the rain, so the splash can be cleared away from your line of sight.

TO CONTACT US



Monday through Saturday, from 7 am to 11 pm Sunday, from noon to 11 pm www.saaq.gouv.qc.ca

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 (toll free)

Monday through Saturday, from 7:30 am to 11 pm Sunday, from noon to 11 pm

Québec (city and vicinity): 418 643-7620 Montréal: 514 873-7620 From elsewhere in Québec, Canada, USA, toll free: 1 800 361-7620

TDD/TTY Montréal: 514 954-7763 From elsewhere in Québec, toll free: 1 800 565-7763

Automated telephone response (with charge)

24 hours, 7 days a week

- Check that a vehicle can be licensed before:
- its sale to an individual;
- its purchase from an individual;
- check that a prospective driver's licence is valid before lending or renting your vehicle.

One number: 1 900 565-1212 (\$1.50 per call)

Société de l'assurance automobile du Québec P.O. Box 19600 Québec (Québec) G1K 8J6

Produced by the Direction des communications. E-mail any comments to us at: **courrier@saaq.gouv.qc.ca** Version française disponible sur demande.

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Société de l'assurance automobile Ouébec * *

Protection of Personal Information

Information concerning a person sought by the SAAQ is handled confidentially. Such personal information is needed by the SAAQ to carry out its mandates under the Automobile Insurance Act and the Highway Safety Code. Personal information obtained is only disclosed to staff internally or to authorized agents. Under the **Act respecting access to documents held by public bodies and the protection of personal information**, it may be conveyed to Government departments or agencies, or used for statistical, survey or study purposes. Individuals may consult or correct any personal information concerning them held in SAAQ records. The information must be provided on request and failure to do so can result in a refusal of service on the SAAQ's part. Individuals may consult or correct any personal information concerning them held in SAAQ records.

For more information, contact the SAAQ's call centres or consult the Policy on Privacy on the SAAQ website at www.saaq.gouv.qc.ca.

List of organizations authorized to disclose information without getting the consent of the individuals concerned

To implement the Highway Safety Code and related statutes:

- Agencies responsible for implementing equivalent statutes in Canada and elsewhere
- · Bureau du taxi de la Communauté urbaine de Montréal
- Commission des transports du Québec
- · Courts including municipal courts
- Insurance Bureau of Canada (IBC)
- Ministère de la Justice du Québec
- Ministère de la Sécurité publique du Québec
- Ministère des Transports du Québec
- Revenu Québec
- Sûreté du Québec and other police forces
- Transport Canada

For implementing statutes and other purposes:

- · Agence nationale de l'encadrement du secteur financier
- Canada Revenue Agency
- Commissaire à la déontologie policière
- Commission de la construction du Québec
- Commission de la protection du territoire agricole
- · Commission des normes du travail
- Coroner
- Environment Canada
- Human Resources Development Canada
- · Insurers and their representatives
- Justice Canada
- Ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux
- Ministère de l'Emploi et de la Solidarité sociale
- Ministère des Affaires intergouvernementales
- Ministère des Ressources naturelles et de la Faune
- Ministère du Développement durable, de l'Environnement et des Parcs
- National Battlefields Commission
- Office de la protection du consommateur
- Office québécois de la langue française
- Régie de l'assurance maladie du Québec
- Régie du bâtiment du Québec
- Revenu Québec
 - Société d'habitation du Québec
- Statistics Canada
- Vehicle manufacturers and dealerships (recall campaigns)