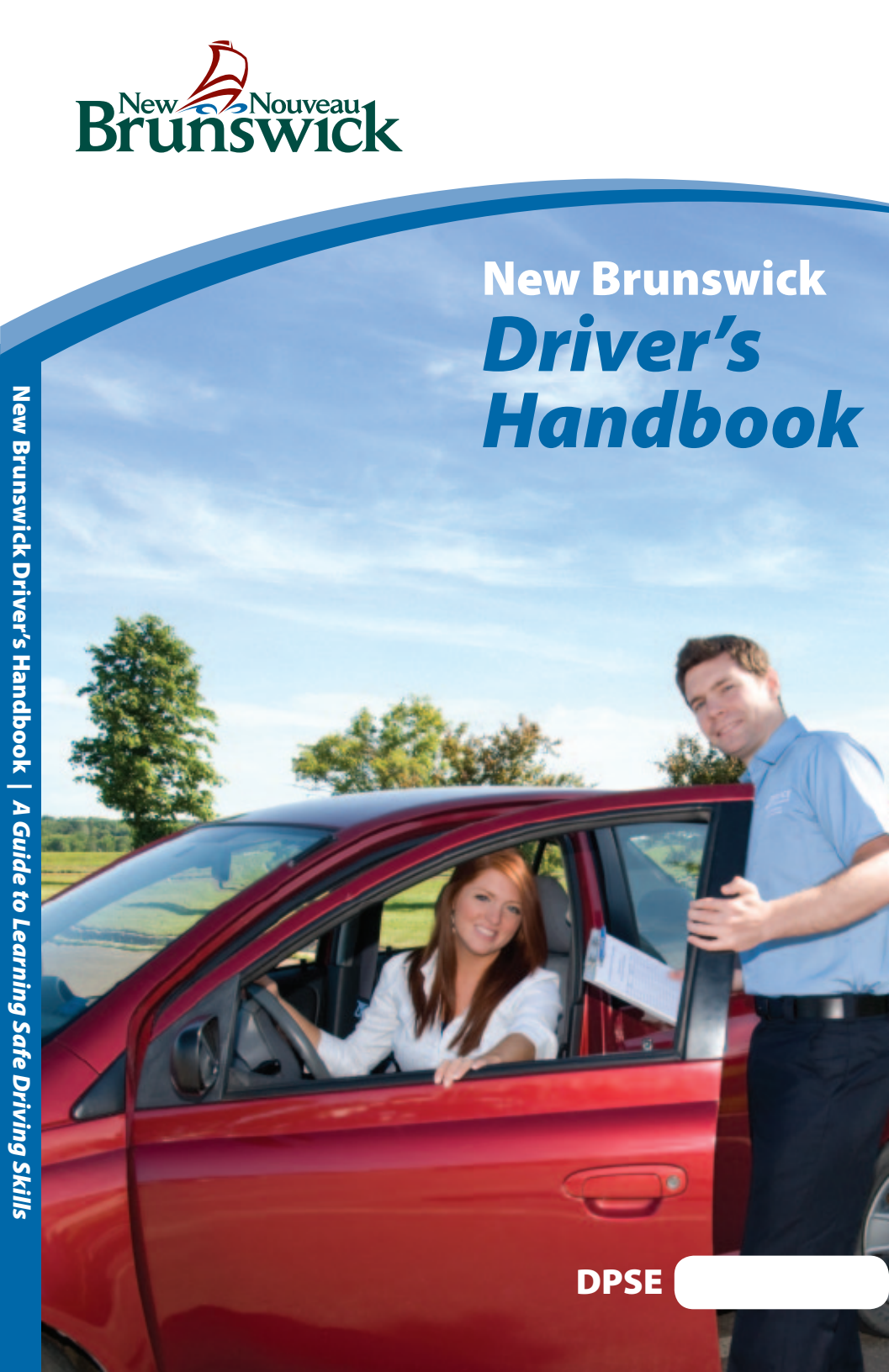


# New Brunswick *Driver's Handbook*

New Brunswick Driver's Handbook | A Guide to Learning Safe Driving Skills

DPSE



**Don't Drink and Drive**



**CAUTION IS CRITICAL**



**Seatbelts Save Lives**





## **New Brunswick Driver's Handbook A Guide to Learning Safe Driving Skills**

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## Message to the Motorist

Driving is such an important part of our culture here in New Brunswick, enabling us daily to meet our family, work and personal obligations, that we sometimes take our responsibility to driver safety somewhat for granted. It is helpful to recall that operating a motor vehicle is indeed a privilege that we share with over 500,000 other New Brunswickers, along with countless visitors to our province. The rules of the road only work to protect us if everyone follows them. That is why it is so important for new drivers to receive a proper grounding in the basics of road safety and why even experienced drivers must constantly be observant and work to improve their skills.

This handbook contains a solid overview of the laws you will be expected to follow, and the process for obtaining your license. It also includes a variety of helpful, safety-related motor vehicle and highway information.

I would urge all drivers to follow the essential safety rules; never drink and drive, always wear your seatbelt, adjust your speed to the conditions, avoid distractions while at the wheel, don't drive if you're too tired and be very careful at intersections.

If all drivers followed these simple rules it would dramatically reduce the number of collision-related deaths and injuries on our roadways. Drive safely and live.

**Charles A. O'Donnell**  
**Registrar of Motor Vehicles**

The contents of this booklet explain the motor vehicle related laws in New Brunswick using basic language and terms. For an exact expression of the law refer to the *Motor Vehicle Act* and Regulations.

<b>PART 1: LICENSING OF DRIVERS</b>	<b>9</b>
1.1 Types of Licences	10
Class 1	10
Class 2	11
Class 3	12
Class 4	12
Class 5	13
Class 6	13
Class 7 Graduated Licence (Level I and II)	14
Class 8	15
Class 9	15
1.2 List of Possible Endorsements	15
1.3 Learning to Drive Vehicles	
Requiring Higher Class Licences	16
1.4 Examination For Learner's Licence:	
Vision Test	16
Road Sign Recognition Test	17
Rules Test	17
1.5 Examination For Driver's Licence	
Driving Test	17
Road Test Summary	20
Re-examination After Failure	21
Restrictions	21
Expiry Date	22
Change of Address	22
Change of Name	22
Renewal of Licence	22
1.6 How You May Lose Your Driving Privilege	23
Newly Licensed Driver Point Suspension	23
Ten (10) Point Suspension	23
Appeals	24
Suspension of Driving Privilege	24
Reinstatement	25
Financial Responsibility	25
Point System	26
How It Operates	26
1.7 Driver Improvement Re-education	27

<b>PART 2: REGISTRATION OF VEHICLES</b>	28
2.1 Certificate of Registration	28
2.2 Plates Property of Crown	28
2.3 Plates Must Be Legible	28
2.4 Owner Responsible for Plates	28
2.5 Transfer of Plates	29
2.6 Offence to Alter Numbers	29
2.7 Non-Residents	29
2.8 Transfer of Ownership	29
2.9 Transit Markers	30
2.10 Expiry Dates	30
2.11 Persons with Disabilities	30
2.12 Cancellation of Registration	31
2.13 Motor Vehicle Safety Inspection	32
<b>PART 3: EQUIPMENT</b>	33
3.1 Lights	33
<i>Head Lamps</i>	33
<i>Motor Cycle Lamps</i>	34
<i>Rear Lamps</i>	34
<i>Clearance Lamps and Reflectors</i>	34
<i>Stop Lamps (Brake Lights)</i>	35
<i>Signal Devices</i>	35
<i>Lamps on Parked Vehicles</i>	35
<i>Daytime Running Lights</i>	35
<i>Stop Lights</i>	36
<i>Flashing or Revolving Lights</i>	36
<i>Four Way Flashers</i>	36
<i>Spot Lamps</i>	36
<i>Fog Lamps</i>	36
3.2 Brakes	37
3.3 Horn	37
3.4 Mirror	37
3.5 Windshields and Windows	37
3.6 Ornaments	37
3.7 Windshield Wipers	38
3.8 Slow Moving Vehicle	38
3.9 Mufflers	38
3.10 Speedometer	38
3.11 Height, Width and Length of Vehicle	38

3.12	Studded Tires .....	39
3.13	Disabled Vehicles .....	39
3.14	Safety Chain .....	39
<b>PART 4:</b>	<b>RULES OF THE ROAD .....</b>	<b>40</b>
4.1	Collisions .....	40
	<i>First at the Scene .....</i>	<i>40</i>
	<i>Emergency Vehicles .....</i>	<i>40</i>
	<i>Reporting Collisions .....</i>	<i>40</i>
	<i>Financial Responsibility .....</i>	<i>41</i>
4.2	Speed Restrictions .....	42
4.3	Slow Drivers .....	42
4.4	Overtaking .....	43
4.5	School Zones, School Buses & Construction Zones .....	44
4.6	Drive on Right Half of Highway .....	45
4.7	Laned Traffic & Pavement Markings .....	45
4.8	Blind Spots .....	46
4.9	Passing .....	46
4.10	Signalling .....	48
4.11	Right of Way .....	48
	<i>Intersection .....</i>	<i>48</i>
	<i>Left Turn .....</i>	<i>49</i>
	<i>Rotary .....</i>	<i>49</i>
	<i>Driveway .....</i>	<i>50</i>
4.12	Railway Crossing .....	50
4.13	Yield Sign .....	51
4.14	Stop Sign .....	51
4.15	Traffic Control Signals .....	52
4.16	Peace Officer .....	53
4.17	Crosswalk Guard .....	53
4.18	Turning at Intersections .....	54
	<i>Two-Way Left Turn Lane .....</i>	<i>56</i>
4.19	Passing on Multi-Lane Streets .....	56
4.20	Parking .....	57
	<i>Your Parking Shows Your Skills .....</i>	<i>57</i>
	<i>Parallel Parking .....</i>	<i>58</i>
4.21	Backing .....	59
	<i>Backing Procedures .....</i>	<i>59</i>

4.22	Miscellaneous Traffic Provisions .....	59
	<i>Passengers in Vehicles</i> .....	60
	<i>Intersections and Crosswalks</i> .....	60
4.23	Pedestrians .....	60
4.24	Traffic on the Highway .....	61
	<i>Sharing the Road</i> .....	61
	<i>Walking on the Highway</i> .....	61
	<i>Pedestrian Safety</i> .....	62
	<i>Thumbing Rides</i> .....	62
4.25	Horseback Riding .....	62
4.26	Bicyclists .....	62
<b>PART 5: SAFE DRIVING</b> .....		63
5.1	The Vehicle .....	63
5.2	Check Your Vehicle .....	64
5.3	Seat Belts Save Lives .....	65
5.4	Penalties for Seat Belt Infractions .....	66
5.5	Preparing Your Vehicle for Winter Driving .....	67
5.6	The Driver .....	68
	<i>Speed</i> .....	69
	<i>Stopping</i> .....	69
	<i>Driving Posture</i> .....	70
	<i>Following</i> .....	70
	<i>Defensive Driving</i> .....	71
	<i>Animals on the Highway</i> .....	71
5.7	White Cane .....	72
5.8	Crash .....	72
	<i>If You Arrive First at a Collision</i> .....	72
	<i>Artificial Respiration</i> .....	73
5.9	Alcohol and Driving .....	74
	<i>What Alcohol Does</i> .....	74
	<i>How the Body Handles Alcohol</i> .....	75
	<i>Fallacies/Remedies</i> .....	75
	<i>Drug and/or Medication</i> .....	75
	<i>The Lethal Cocktail</i> .....	76
	<i>Alcohol and the Law</i> .....	76
	<i>Failure or Refusal to Provide a Sample</i> .....	76
	<i>Criminal Code of Canada</i> .....	76

5.10	Some Rules for Safe Driving .....	79
	<i>Check Your Driving Habits</i> .....	81
5.11	The Environment –	
	Highway, Weather and Visibility Conditions .....	82
	<i>Friction</i> .....	82
	<i>Stopping on Ice</i> .....	82
	<i>Rain</i> .....	82
	<i>Hydroplaning –</i>	
	<i>“Water Skiing on the Highway”</i> .....	82
	<i>Skids</i> .....	83
	<i>Rules for Winter Driving</i> .....	84
5.12	Intersections .....	85
5.13	Tire Blow-Out .....	86
5.14	Running Off Pavement .....	86
5.15	Curves .....	86
5.16	Driving at Night .....	87
5.17	Driving in Fog .....	87
5.18	Limited Access Highway .....	88
	<i>Two Lane Highway With Climbing Lane</i> .....	88
	<i>Entrance and Exit Ramps</i> .....	88
	<i>Continuity Lines</i> .....	89
	<i>Intersections</i> .....	89
<b>PART 6:</b>	<b>SHARING THE ROAD</b> .....	90
6.1	Drivers Helping Other Drivers .....	90
6.2	Drivers and Large Commercial Vehicles .....	91
6.3	Drivers and Motorcycles .....	92
6.4	Drivers and Bicycles .....	92
6.5	Vehicle Drivers and Pedestrians .....	93
6.6	Driver and School Buses .....	94
6.7	Drivers and Emergency Vehicles .....	95
6.8	Drivers and Farm Vehicles .....	96

<b>PART 7: TRAFFIC SIGNS</b>	97
7.1 Six Basic Sign Shapes Every Driver Must know	97
7.2 Standard Sign Colours	98
7.3 Regulatory Signs	99
<i>Lane Designation Signs</i>	101
<i>Turn Control Signs</i>	102
7.4 Warning Signs	103
<i>Hazard Markers</i>	106
<i>Construction Signs</i>	107
7.5 Railway Crossings	108
7.6 Guide Signs	109
7.7 Information Signs	110
<b>PART 8: WHAT EVERY MOTORCYCLIST MUST KNOW</b>	111
8.1 Motorcycle Driver's Licence	111
8.2 Equipment	111
8.3 Safe Driving Rules	112
8.4 Motorcycle Safety Check	113
<i>Daily Safety Inspection</i>	113
8.5 Starting	114
8.6 Stopping	114
8.7 Passengers	116
8.8 Driving Techniques	116
<i>Turns</i>	116
<i>Slippery Surface</i>	116
<i>Railroad Tracks</i>	116
8.9 Defensive Driving	117
8.10 Shoulder Checks	117
8.11 Following Other Vehicles	118
<i>Following Distances</i>	118
8.12 Emergencies When Riding	119
<i>Avoiding Obstacles</i>	119
<i>Riding over Obstacles</i>	119
<i>Sudden Stops</i>	120
<i>Wobble</i>	120
<i>Stuck Throttle</i>	121
<i>Blowouts</i>	121
<i>Skids</i>	121

<b>PART 9: ORGAN TRANSPLANTATION AND DONATION</b>	122
9.1 Transplantation	122
9.2 Organ Donation	122
9.3 Age	123
<b>PART 10: ADDITIONAL INFORMATION IMPORTANT TO DRIVERS</b>	124
10.1 Parking Regulations	124
10.2 Following	125
10.3 Following Fire Vehicles	125
10.4 Riding in the Back Portion of a Vehicle	125
10.5 Driving Tips	126
10.6 Fuel Efficient Driving Techniques	127
10.7 What Motorists Need to Know	
About Trucks and Their Limitations	131
<i>Braking</i>	131
<i>A Trucker's Blind Spots</i>	133
10.8 Your Road Driving Test	134
10.9 A Note of Encouragement	135
10.10 Consent Form	136

Possession of a driver's licence and the privilege of driving is a major responsibility. The Registrar of Motor Vehicles, under the authority of the *Motor Vehicle Act* issues, renews and suspends driver's licences.

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9



## **1.1 Types of Licences**

### **Class 1**

- Applicant must be at least 18 years of age.
- Applicant must meet medical standards before written test.
- Must pass vision screening (20/30 best eye; 20/50 weakest eye).
- Must pass written tests (basic - sign - supplementary).
- Must pass road test in a mechanically fit vehicle supplied by applicant that is included in the Class. Normally this will be a tractor-trailer combination. There are limited exceptions: (1) straight truck with flatbed trailer over 4,500 kg. gross vehicle mass; (2) straight truck with pole trailer; (3) truck used for towing mobile homes. These exceptions will be class 1 with Restriction 10 (not valid for tractor trailer).

### **Explanation**

The Class 1 licence permits the holder to operate:

- Any motor vehicle which the holder of a Class 2, 3, 4 or 5 licence may operate.
- Any truck tractor.
- Any truck tractor towing a semi-trailer.
- Any truck tractor towing a semi-trailer and a trailer.
- Any truck tractor towing a trailer equipped with air brakes.
- Any truck towing a trailer equipped with air brakes.
- Must have air brake endorsement when driving any vehicle with air brakes and any vehicle towing a trailer with air brakes.

**Class 2**

- Applicant must be at least 18 years of age.
- Applicant must meet medical standards before written test.
- Must pass vision screening (20/30 best eye; 20/50 weakest eye).
- Must pass written tests (basic - signs- supplementary).
- Must pass road test in mechanically fit vehicle supplied by applicant that is included in this Class.
- Must have a B or C endorsement if driving a school bus.
- Must be at least 21 years of age and retested every 2 years for a school bus.
- Applicants between the ages of 60-65 must be retested yearly for school bus.

**Explanation**

The Class 2 licence permits the holder to operate:

- Any motor vehicle which the holder of a Class 3, 4 or 5 licence may operate.
- Any bus with a capacity of more than twenty-four (24) passengers.



### Class 3

- Applicant must be at least 18 years of age.
- Applicant must meet medical standards before written test.
- Must pass vision screening (20/30 best eye; 20/50 weakest eye).
- Must pass written tests (basic - signs - supplementary test).
- Must pass road test in mechanically fit vehicle supplied by applicant that is included in this Class.

### Explanation

The Class 3 licence permits the holder to operate:

- Any motor vehicle which the holder of a Class 5 licence may operate.
- Any two-axled motor vehicle towing a towed vehicle, the towed vehicle being registered for over 4,500 kg. gross vehicle mass but not equipped with air brakes.
- Any motor vehicle with three or more axles.
- Any motor vehicle with three or more axles, towing a towed vehicle not equipped with air brakes.

### Class 3/4

Authorizes a person to drive any motor vehicle which the holder of a Class 3 or Class 4 licence may operate.



### Class 4

- Applicant must be at least 18 years of age.
- Applicant must meet medical standards.
- Must pass vision screening (20/30 best eye; 20/50 weakest eye, before written test).
- Must pass written tests (basic - signs).
- Must pass road test in mechanically fit vehicle supplied by applicant that is included in this Class.

### Explanation

The Class 4 licence permits the holder to operate:

- Any motor vehicle which the holder of a Class 5 licence may operate.
- Any ambulance.
- Any taxicab.
- Any bus with a capacity of less than twenty-five (25) passengers.

**Class 5**

- Applicant must be at least 18 years of age.
- Must pass vision screening (20/40 best eye).
- Must pass road test in mechanically fit vehicle supplied by the applicant that is included in this Class.

**Explanation**

Class 5 licence permits the holder to operate:

- Any two-axled motor vehicle, except taxi, ambulance, or bus.
- Any three-axled motor home.
- Any three axled motor vehicle, other than a truck, of a type designed for use in the construction, maintenance and repair of highways, whether or not the vehicle is to be so used.
- Any towed vehicle which is registered up to and including 4,500 kg. gross vehicle mass behind a motor vehicle or motor home.

**Class 6 (All Motorcycles)**

- Applicant must be at least 16 years of age.
- Applicants under the age of 18 years must have parental consent form.
- Must pass vision screening (20/40 best eye).
- Must pass written tests (basic - signs - supplementary).
- Must pass road test on mechanically fit motorcycle.
- Must wear adequate protective headgear.

**Explanation**

The Class 6 licence permits the holder to operate a motorcycle and all vehicles included in Classes 6D and 9 on a street or highway.

**Class 6D (Not to exceed 550 ccs)**

- Applicant must be at least 16 years of age.
- Applicants under the age of 18 years must have parental consent form.
- Must pass vision screening (20/40 best eye).
- Must pass written tests (basic - signs - supplementary).
- Must pass road test on mechanically fit motorcycle.

## Explanation

Class 6D licence authorizes you to operate a motorcycle up to and including 550 ccs and a Class 9 vehicle. Anything over this size requires a Class 6 licence.

## Class 7 Graduated Licence (Level I and II)

This is an instructional type of licence for the driver to acquire experience, over a minimum of 24 months, before becoming a fully licensed driver. While the holder of a graduated licence, the driver must maintain 0% blood alcohol content while driving and any breach of this condition will result in a one year suspension, followed by a return to the beginning of the graduated licence period with no credit given for a previously passed road test or driver training course.

Suspension for loss of all points will result in at least a three month suspension followed by a return to the beginning of the graduated licence period with no credit given for a previously passed road test or driver training course.

**Class 7 licence is issued for four years.**

**It is your responsibility to apply for a Class 5 Licence upon completion of a Class 7 Graduated Licence (Level II)**

- Applicant must be at least 16 years of age.
- Applicants under 18 years of age must have parental consent that must be witnessed by a non-relative.
- Must pass vision screening (20/40 best eye).
- Must pass written, basic and signs tests.

## Explanation

### Level 1

- Must be accompanied by only one passenger who has a Class 5 or better licence, at least three years of driving experience and who is seated in the front passenger seat.
- Cannot drive between midnight and 5:00 a.m.
- Can be eligible to take the road test for Level 2 after eight months if graduated from a licensed driver training school or after 12 months if they have not.



### Level 2

- If under 21, cannot drive between midnight and 5:00 a.m. except for education or work purposes or if they're accompanied by a driver who has a Class 5 or better licence and at least three years driving experience. They can apply to the Registrar of Motor Vehicles for an exemption to this night time restriction for other reasons.
- Cannot have more than three passengers in their vehicle and no more than one passenger in the front seat.

### Class 8

- Applicant must be at least 14 years of age.
- Applicants under 18 years of age must have parental consent form.
- Must pass vision screening (20/40 best eye).
- Must pass written tests (basic - signs).



### Explanation

The Class 8 licence permits the holder to operate a farm tractor on a street or highway as well as on farmland.

### Class 9

- Applicant must be at least 14 years of age.
- Applicant under 18 years of age must have parental consent form.
- Must pass vision screening (20/40 best eye).
- Must pass written tests (basic - signs) and supplementary.
- Must pass road test on a mechanically fit motor driven cycle.
- Must wear adequate protective headgear.

### Explanation

The Class 9 licence permits the holder to operate a motor driven cycle and farm tractor on a street or highway. The motor driven cycle must be 50 ccs or under.

---

## 1.2 List of Possible Endorsements

- A Valid for all motorcycles
- B Valid for school buses
- C Valid for school bus and motorcycle
- D Valid for motorcycles up to and including 550 ccs
- E Valid for air brake (plastic licence)

---

### **1.3 Learning to Drive Vehicles Requiring Higher Class Licences**

Classes 5, 4, 3 and 2 are valid for learning to drive higher classes of vehicles; however you must be accompanied by a person who has a valid licence for that class of vehicle.

Also, you must have in your immediate possession a satisfactory medical certificate stamped by an authorized Driver Examiner.

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### **1.4 Examination for Learner's Licence**

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**There is a separate fee for both written and road tests and an additional fee for the Learner's Licence. Check with Service New Brunswick for the amounts.**

Before you, as a resident of New Brunswick, may obtain a learner's licence, you must pass an examination to determine if you meet the required vision standards. You must also have an acceptable knowledge of road signs, rules of the road and safe driving practices. In addition, you must present one original or certified copy of a valid passport, birth certificate, or court order to verify your name and date of birth and two pieces of identification to verify your current address. Please contact Service New Brunswick for a complete list of acceptable documents. It may be a requirement for a parent or guardian to accompany you to verify your address.

You must have the written consent of a parent or guardian before applying for a licence if you are less than 18 years of age. A consent form is provided at the back of this book and must be witnessed properly.

This written consent may be withdrawn by the parent or guardian at any time prior to age 18, by making written application to the Registrar of Motor Vehicles who may then cancel the licence.



### **Vision Test**

If it is found that you need visual correction in order to drive safely, you will be advised accordingly and no further testing can occur and a licence cannot be issued to you until you obtain the necessary correction. When a driver's licence is issued, it will display the appropriate restriction "Valid only while licence holder is wearing proper visual correction".

## **Road Sign Recognition Test**

You will be given a written or oral examination on your ability to recognize and understand the meaning of highway road signs. This test consists of twenty (20) signs. To pass, you must correctly match sixteen (16), with the exception of “stop”, “yield” and “school ahead” which are mandatory.

## **Rules Test**

You will be given a written or oral examination on the traffic laws and rules for safe driving as contained in this book. The written exam consists of twenty (20) multiple choice questions. To pass, you must answer sixteen (16) correctly. Although this guide offers measurements in both Metric and Imperial systems, the written test refers only to the Metric system.

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### **1.5 Examination for Driver's Licence**

Note: Appointments for testing can only be booked through Service New Brunswick Teleservices (1-888-762-8600)

You must pass a driving examination to determine whether you are qualified to operate a motor vehicle safely before you can be issued a driver's licence. These examinations are conducted by a Driver Examiner who also indicates the areas of your driving which need further improvement and stresses the importance of your attitude as a determining factor in safe driving.

## **Driving Test**

This is an examination to test your actual driving skills and your ability to operate a vehicle safely while abiding by the rules of the Motor Vehicle Act. You must come to the examination office with a vehicle that is in good mechanical condition, preferably the one which you expect to operate after you obtain your driver's licence. (You must have the valid motor vehicle registration and insurance card to show the Examiner upon request). As part of the road test, the vehicle will be checked by the Examiner to ensure that it meets the standards set out under the Motor Vehicle Act. The road test will not be conducted if the vehicle is not in satisfactory mechanical condition.

During the driving test, do not talk unnecessarily to the Examiner who will be busy giving instructions, observing your performance and recording your score. No tricks will be played on you. The Examiner will not ask you to do anything which is a violation of the law. The purpose of the exam is to determine if you can operate a motor vehicle well enough to receive a driver's licence.

The driving test includes such operations as:

1. Stopping and starting, both on a level road and on a hill.
2. Changing gears in vehicles not having automatic transmissions, both on a level road and on a hill.
3. Making left and right turns.
4. Backing.
5. Following another vehicle properly.
6. Giving proper signals.
7. Parallel and/or angle parking.
8. Observing and complying with traffic control devices (signs, signals and pavement markings).

The examination will be conducted over a course of at least 3 km, and when possible, will be conducted in fairly dense traffic. The exam also tests your ability to apply your knowledge of the rules of the road, recognition of road signs, visual perception, etc.

You may know every safe driving rule, may have adequate vision and other physical abilities and may exhibit the most exemplary attitude, but until you show your ability and skill in an actual driving test, you have not proven that you are competent to operate a motor vehicle safely upon the highway.

*The following is a sample of the road test evaluation form used by the examiner while conducting a driving test. If you are learning to drive, it may help you to have your teacher grade you, using this form. As a driver, you have developed certain driving habits. Why not have your licensed passenger verify your driving?*

**A. VEHICLE HANDLING**

	<b>Pass</b>	<b>Fail</b>	<b>Needs-Training</b>
Starting	_____	_____	_____
Remarks	_____		
Backing	_____	_____	_____
Remarks	_____		
Parking	_____	_____	_____
Remarks	_____		
Starting from curb	_____	_____	_____
Remarks	_____		
Stopping from upgrade	_____	_____	_____
Remarks	_____		
Posture	_____	_____	_____
Remarks	_____		

**B. TRAFFIC CONDITONS**

	<b>Pass</b>	<b>Fail</b>	<b>Needs-Training</b>
Following	_____	_____	_____
Remarks	_____		
Passing	_____	_____	_____
Remarks	_____		
Being passed	_____	_____	_____
Remarks	_____		
Use of horn	_____	_____	_____
Remarks	_____		
Right of way	_____	_____	_____
Remarks	_____		

**C. ROAD TEST**

	<b>Pass</b>	<b>Fail</b>	<b>Needs-Training</b>
Stop signs	_____	_____	_____
Remarks	_____		
Traffic lights	_____	_____	_____
Remarks	_____		
Left turns	_____	_____	_____
Remarks	_____		
Left turn from one way street	_____	_____	_____
Remarks	_____		
Right turn	_____	_____	_____
Remarks	_____		
Blind intersection	_____	_____	_____
Remarks	_____		
Multiple lanes	_____	_____	_____
Remarks	_____		
Other signs	_____	_____	_____
Remarks	_____		
Attention	_____	_____	_____
Remarks	_____		
One-way street	_____	_____	_____
Remarks	_____		

**Road Test Summary**

At the end of the test the examiner will explain the ways in which your driving skills require improvement and will advise you on how to improve.

## Re-examination After Failure

If you do not pass the examination, the Examiner will advise you of the reasons for your failure and you will be asked to return after further study and more practical road experience.

Minimum waiting periods are as follows:

First Failure - one week

Second Failure - two weeks

Third Failure - three weeks

If you have not successfully completed the required test after a period of six months, the written exam must be completed again.

## Restrictions

If you are unable to pass the complete examination without some type of special equipment, or if you were not tested in a vehicle that allowed you to operate all vehicles covered by the class of licence being issued, or if there was a medical requirement imposed, your licence will restrict you to driving with such equipment or other limitations.

Possible restrictions are:

1. Must wear corrective lenses.
2. Vehicle must be equipped with side view mirrors.
3. Vehicle must be equipped with hand controls.
4. Vehicle must be equipped with automatic transmission.
5. Steering wheel must be equipped with steering knob.
6. Restricted to Daylight Driving Only.
7. Combination of Restrictions 1 and 2.
8. Combination of Restrictions 3 and 4.
9. Combination of Restrictions 4 and 5.
10. Head Office Restriction – Contact Head Office
  - Automatic Transmission: Commercial and Bus
  - Not Valid for Tractor Trailers
  - Not Valid for Ambulance
  - Not Valid: Ambulance/Bus < 25 Passengers
11. Medical Restriction – Contact Head Office
12. valid in NB only
15. for work only
16. Ignition Interlock
21. Motor Driven Cycle and Farm Tractor
22. medical purposes only
23. 0% Blood Alcohol Level while driving until (age 21).
- W. Commercial – Canada Only

**Expiry Date**

An individual's driver's licence expires on the licensee's birthday in the year of expiration.

**Change of Address**

Drivers are required by law to advise the Motor Vehicle Branch of any change in address within ten (10) days.

**Change of Name**

Drivers are required by law to advise the Motor Vehicle Branch of any change in name within ten (10) days.

**Renewal of Licence**

When renewing your driver's licence you must notify the Motor Vehicle Branch of:

1. Any changes in your physical or mental condition which might limit or alter your ability to operate a vehicle (some examples are heart condition, mental condition, mental breakdown, eye diseases, limbs, diabetes or conditions resulting in loss of consciousness); and
2. Revocation or suspension.

Doctors and Optometrists are required by law to report anything that would affect the driving ability of their patient.

Failure to provide this information may prohibit renewal of driving privileges. The renewal application form should be carefully read before signing.

### **1.6 How You May Lose Your Driving Privilege**

The Registrar **MUST** suspend your driving privileges for any of the following reasons:

- a) When a total of ten points is assessed against your driving record (other than a newly licensed driver).
- b) When a newly licensed driver loses all points credited to him/her.
- c) Upon conviction for operating or permitting operation of a motor vehicle that is uninsured.
- d) When any points are assessed against an unlicensed driver or a non-resident unlicensed driver.
- e) A conviction for altering a licence.

#### **Newly Licensed Driver Point Suspension**

A newly licensed driver means any driver who has been licensed for less than four years.

Every driver in this category is credited with four points after being issued with a licence. A further two points will be credited to these drivers each subsequent year to a maximum of ten points.

When a newly licensed driver loses all points he/she will be suspended by the Registrar.

#### **Ten (10) Point Suspension**

Every driver, other than a newly licensed driver, is included in this category for suspension purposes.

Three points accumulated in any way is the signal for a warning letter to be issued. After loss of seven (7) points, a second letter is sent from the Registrar advising that further loss of points could result in the suspension of your driver's licence. Ten (10) accumulated points incur automatic suspension.

No demerit points remain on a driver's record for more than two years from the date of convictions. Thus the points accumulated on any particular day will be removed from the driver's record two years later, providing ten (10) points have not been accumulated within a two year period which resulted in a suspension.

## Appeals

Suspension of driving privileges for the first time in three years for loss of all points for offences under the *Motor Vehicle Act* may be appealed to the Registrar of Motor Vehicles.

Suspension of driving privileges as the result of a first conviction of a Criminal Code offence in three years may be appealed to a Judge of the Court of Queen's Bench.

The Registrar or the Courts cannot recommend reinstatement of a licence unless the applicant's appeal application states that the ability to operate a motor vehicle is essential in avoiding the loss of the applicant's livelihood.

The filing of an application does not guarantee the reinstatement of one's driving privileges.

No appeal can be processed by the Court while a prohibition order is in force.

## Suspension of Driving Privilege

Suspensions resulting from accumulation of demerit points for offenses under the *Motor Vehicle Act* are for a period of three months.

Suspensions resulting from a first conviction under the Criminal Code for the following offenses is twelve months for the first conviction, second or subsequent convictions within a three year period – twenty-four (24) months, fines are from \$300.00 to \$2,000.00.

1. Criminal negligence;
2. Dangerous operation of a motor vehicle;
3. Driving while disqualified.

The suspension for the first alcohol related Criminal Code conviction is one year, second conviction is three years and third or subsequent conviction is five years.

Suspension for any other Criminal Code conviction involving the use of a motor vehicle - six months, second or subsequent offence within three years - twelve months.

Suspensions for a conviction for failing to stop when requested by a peace officer or continuing to avoid a peace officer who is pursuing him/her – suspension can be for a period up to three years, imposed by the court.

Suspensions resulting from a conviction under the *Motor Vehicle Act* for driving while suspended are twelve months for the first conviction and twenty-four months for the second or subsequent conviction within three years.

### **Reinstatement**

Licences so suspended may be reinstated after the suspension period imposed has elapsed providing certain conditions have been satisfied.

After a suspension for loss of points for offenses under the *Motor Vehicle Act*, you must pay a reinstatement fee.

After a suspension for conviction under the Criminal Code involving alcohol, you must take a Drinking & Driving Re-Education Course and pay a reinstatement fee.

In some cases, after the period of suspension is completed, the driver regains his/her licence “on probation” for one year. Any conviction during the year’s probation will automatically bring into effect additional periods of suspension.

**IN ALL CASES WHERE A LICENCE HAS BEEN SUSPENDED, IT REMAINS SUSPENDED UNTIL REINSTATED BY THE REGISTRAR REGARDLESS OF THE FACT THAT THE TERM OF SUSPENSION HAS EXPIRED.**

### **Financial Responsibility**

A driver involved in a collision in which a person is injured (even slightly) or killed or the total property damage amounts to \$1,000.00 or more must be able to prove his/her financial responsibility at the time of the collision. The accepted proof is a New Brunswick Liability Insurance Card, issued by an authorized insurance company, showing that public liability and property damage coverage has been issued on behalf of the driver or the owner of the vehicle.

Some examples of point loss offences are provided:

- For any offence under the Criminal Code involving the use of a motor vehicle  
..... 10 points
- For failure to report a collision  
..... 5 points
- For driving without due care  
..... 5 points
- For speeding more than 25 km (15 miles) over speed limit  
..... 5 points
- For speeding 25 km (15 miles) per hour or less over speed limit  
..... 3 points
- For any offence under the *Motor Vehicle Act* or local by-law involving the use of a motor vehicle in motion  
..... 3 points
- For unlawful parking with view obstructed  
..... 3 points
- For unlawful parking without view obstructed  
..... 2 points
- For any offence under the *Motor Vehicle Act* involving the equipment of a motor vehicle  
..... 2 points
- For driver not properly wearing a seat belt:  
..... 2 points
- For unlawful parking in a zone reserved for the disabled  
..... 2 points

The Registrar, on receipt of a collision report that does not show that the owner or driver has financial responsibility, must suspend the motor vehicle privileges of the owner and operator and cancel all registrations and licences of both the owner and driver. Before reinstatement can be made, proof of financial responsibility for the future must be filed with the Registrar of Motor Vehicles.

### Point System

The point system is designed to protect drivers (and most drivers are careful) against the dangers of sharing the highways with those who cause collisions. The system imposes no hardship on safe drivers – but it is strict on law violators!

Nearly every collision is caused by someone who breaks a traffic law. When traffic laws are obeyed, collision rates drop. Good drivers can then drive with greater safety.

### How it Operates

The point system has proven to be beneficial in many jurisdictions. In New Brunswick, it provides a graduated number of demerit points for traffic convictions of different levels of seriousness. The violator loses his/her licence when his/her total demerits demonstrate he/she is a greater danger to others on the highway.

Suspension resulting from an accumulation of demerit points remains in effect for three months.

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### **1.7 Driver Improvement Re-education**

The Registrar, at any time, may require any driver to be re-examined if there is a question about the driver's physical condition or driving ability. If a re-examination is required due to a poor driving record (collisions, convictions, etc.) it will be conducted by a Driver Examiner.

Although the re-examination is basically the same as the qualifying examination, this test is designed to correct and improve any areas of the driving skills that are below set standards for the safe operation of a motor vehicle.

From the results of the re-examination the Registrar will consider whatever further driver improvement action is necessary. If a medical condition appears to be contributing to an individual's driving problems, a medical report may be required. This medical report is reviewed by the Medical Advisory Board on driver licensing and its recommendation is provided to the Registrar. Under Section 309 of the *Motor Vehicle Act*, a driver may be totally retested to see if the medical reason affects the driving ability of the person.

## 2. REGISTRATION OF VEHICLES

### 2.1 Certificate of Registration



The owner of every motor vehicle, trailer or semi-trailer, who intends to operate that vehicle upon any highway in New Brunswick, must obtain registration for that vehicle by applying to Service New Brunswick. The registration permit or a photocopy must be carried by the driver while operating the vehicle.

### 2.2 Plates are Property of the Crown

Plates and permits remain the property of the Crown and must be surrendered upon demand. Found plates should be delivered to Service New Brunswick or forwarded to Motor Vehicle Branch, P. O. Box 6000, Fredericton, NB E3B 5H1



### 2.3 Plates Must Be Legible

Licence plates must be securely fastened to the front and rear of the vehicle in such a position and condition as to be clearly legible and the rear plate must be lighted at night.

### 2.4 Owner Responsible for Plates

You are responsible for the custody of licence plates or validation stickers issued to you for the current year and must immediately notify Service New Brunswick when they are no longer in your possession. There is a nominal fee for replacing lost plates and stickers.

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### **2.5 Transfer of Plates**

The plates are issued to a particular vehicle and cannot be transferred to another. Exceptions are made for the owners of personalized, conservation, and specialty plates i.e. : fire-fighter, amateur radio and veteran's plates.

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### **2.6 Offence to Alter Numbers**

It is an offence under the *Motor Vehicle Act* to alter or deface any of the identifying serial/vehicle identification numbers of a motor vehicle. Changes in chassis or body of a motor vehicle must be recorded with the Motor Vehicle Branch.

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### **2.7 Non-Residents**

A passenger vehicle owned by a visitor may be operated for personal, non-business purposes for a period of six months in New Brunswick without being registered in the Province. This six month period is determined from the date on which the passenger motor vehicle was first operated in New Brunswick in any registration year.

A person who becomes a resident of New Brunswick must register his/her vehicle with Service New Brunswick immediately.

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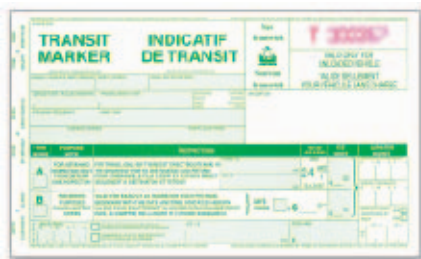
### **2.8 Transfer of Ownership**

Transfer of ownership is by process of law. The signature of the registered owner is required on the certificate of registration. The purchaser's name, address and date of birth are required on the transfer document. The registration certificate is required to be surrendered and transferred to the purchaser's name at any issuing office. The collection of sales tax and motor vehicle fees are required at time of transfer. The vehicle cannot be driven or permitted to be driven until the registration certificate is recorded in the new purchaser's name.

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**In the case of the death of the registered owner, the vehicle may be driven to the residence or place of business of the person entitled to the vehicle.**

## 2.9 Transit Markers



This is a temporary permit to move an unregistered vehicle from one place to another and is valid for twenty-four hours. This permit is also issued to move a vehicle, on which the inspection sticker has expired, to an inspection station. The applicant must show proof of insurance anytime the motor vehicle is being operated.

## 2.10 Expiry Dates

Registrations for passenger type vehicles and light commercial vehicles are staggered and expire on various days during the month. Plates for large commercial vehicles can expire on the last day of any quarter during the year. Commercial prorated plates are staggered and expire on the last day of a month. All-terrain plates expire December 31st. All other registrations expire March 31st.

## 2.11 Persons With Disabilities

Placards must be hung on the rear-view mirror **when the vehicle is parked** in a designated space. The person, for whom the placard was issued, must be getting in or out of the vehicle, at that stop, or the reserved parking space may not be used. An application form must be completed in order for the disabled person to receive a placard. If the disability is visible, the placard is issued immediately but, if not, the application requires a physician's verification.

A placard is valid for a maximum period of five years. A permit is provided to the disabled person when the placard is issued. This permit must be carried by the placard holder. **Placards and permits must be surrendered when no longer needed. Placards are issued only for**

**the use of the designated person and may not be loaned to anyone else, for any reason.**

Drivers who do not hold placards should respect the proper use of the designated parking spaces. A person who parks in a designated parking space without displaying a valid placard can be charged under the Motor Vehicle Act, which also provides for the loss of demerit points.

It is important to remember to remove the placard before driving.

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### **2.12 Cancellation of Registration**

The Registrar of Motor Vehicles may cancel any registration whenever it is deemed expedient. Registration may be cancelled and plates ordered returned to the Motor Vehicle Branch as provided under the Act.

Motor vehicle permits may be revoked or suspended:

1. When the Branch determines that the vehicle is unsafe or unfit to be operated or is not equipped as required by law.
2. When the vehicle is used for any unlawful purpose or when the owner permits it to be used by a person not entitled to use it.

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### **2.13 Motor Vehicle Safety Inspection**

All registered motor vehicles and trailers must undergo a yearly safety inspection at an official inspection station. These stations are situated in all localities of the Province and will conduct a prescribed safety inspection in accordance with Motor Vehicle Inspection Regulations. The inspection must be carried out under the supervision of a licensed mechanic. The inspection station will issue a motor vehicle inspection report form to you. This form should be retained in your vehicle.

Inspection stickers issued during the month in which a vehicle was inspected will be valid until the end of that month in the following year. A newly purchased vehicle cannot be re-registered unless it bears a valid inspection sticker. The Registrar or any peace officer may order a vehicle to be reinspected at any time.

A period of fourteen (14) days in which to obtain an inspection is permitted for out-of-province vehicles being registered in New Brunswick. There is a reciprocal agreement with Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island whereby their inspection stickers are honoured.

The owner or operator of a “rejected vehicle” has fourteen (14) days from the date of rejection to have defects corrected and the vehicle reinspected. This does not permit the operation of an unsafe vehicle during this time.

An inspection sticker which has become defaced may be replaced for a nominal fee upon proof of inspection at any inspection station. The motor vehicle inspection report must be produced for this purpose.

### 3. EQUIPMENT

This section deals with mandatory and optional equipment for your vehicle as well as suggestions for safer road use.

#### 3.1 Lights

No person shall drive a vehicle on a highway at nighttime or any other time when there is not sufficient light to render clearly discernible persons and vehicles on the highway at a distance of 150 meters (500 feet) unless the vehicle is equipped with and displays lighted lamps and illuminating devices as required for the class of vehicle so driven.

##### Headlamps

Every motor vehicle, except a motorcycle or motor driven cycle, must have at least two headlights displaying white light. One must be attached to each side of the vehicle not more than 140 centimetres (55 inches) from the ground and not less than 60 centimetres (24 inches). They must have an upper beam that clearly shows ahead for 100 metres (330 feet) and a lower beam that shows 30 metres (100 feet).

Lights must be dimmed within 150 metres (500 feet) of an approaching vehicle. When following another vehicle within 60 metres (200 feet) the lower beam must be used except when in the act of passing. It is permissible for a vehicle to be equipped and operated with an auxiliary lamp or spot lamp providing the total intensity does not exceed 300 candle power.



## **Motor Cycle Lamps**

Every motorcycle must be equipped with at least one and not more than three head lamps displaying white light. The light must be strong enough to reveal a person or vehicle at 100 metres (330 feet) when speed is 60 km (35 miles) per hour or more. The lamp or lamps must be aimed so that the high intensity portion does not project higher than the level of the centre of the lamp at a distance of 750 centimetres (25 feet).

## **Rear Lamps**

Every motor vehicle, trailer, etc. and the last vehicle in a train of vehicles must have at least two red tail lights mounted one on either side of the rear of the vehicle at a height of not more than 183 centimetres (72 inches) and not less than 38 centimetres (15 inches). This light must be visible from a distance of 150 metres (500 feet) to the rear. Every vehicle must be equipped with a white light to illuminate the rear licence plate and make it clearly readable at a distance of 15 metres (50 feet).

## **Clearance Lamps and Reflectors**

Every bus or truck must have on the rear two red reflectors and one stop light.

Every commercial vehicle, semi-trailer or trailer 2 metres (80 inches) or more in width must have in addition to the above:

- a) On the front, one amber clearance lamp on each side.
- b) On the rear and as high as practical a red clearance lamp on each side.
- c) On each side an amber reflector at or near the front and one red near the rear.
- d) Mud flaps mounted immediately behind the rear wheels.
- e) In the vehicle, three flares, electric lanterns or portable reflectors capable of reflecting red light for a distance of 150 metres (500 feet) under normal nighttime conditions. They must also carry two red cloth flags at least 30 centimetres (12 inches) square.

### **Stop Lamps (Brake Lights)**

Motor vehicles operated on a highway must be equipped with a red stop lamp or lamps. This lamp must be plainly visible and understandable from a distance of 30 metres (100 feet) to the rear both during daylight and darkness.

### **Signal Devices**

Any motor vehicle may be equipped with a lamp or lamps or mechanical signal devices capable of clearly indicating an intention to turn either to the right or to the left, such signal devices being visible both from the front and the rear.

A signal lamp or lamps indicating intention to turn must be visible during daylight and darkness from a distance of 30 metres (100 feet) both to the front and to the rear.

### **Lamps on Parked Vehicles**

Whenever a vehicle is parked or stopped upon a roadway or shoulder any time when there is not sufficient light to see persons and vehicles at a distance of 150 metres (500 feet), it must be equipped with one or more lighted lamps that exhibit white or amber light on the roadway side which can be seen for 150 metres (500 feet) to the front of the vehicle and a lighted lamp visible from a distance of 150 metres (500 feet) to the rear.

### **Daytime Running Lights**

Beginning with the model year 1990 all new vehicles must be equipped with daytime running lights which activate automatically. A vehicle using these lights is more easily seen by other motorists, pedestrians and cyclists.

Older vehicles may be modified to produce automatic daytime running lights.

If your vehicle is not equipped with daytime running lights, it is suggested that you use your headlights at all times.

### **Stop Lights**

It is suggested that all motor vehicles be equipped with a “stop” light. This light must be so constructed and placed where it will give a red signal to the rear of the vehicle which is plainly visible in normal sunlight from a distance of 100 metres (330 feet). The stop light may or may not be the same as the rear lamp unit.

### **Flashing or Revolving Lights**

The use of flashing or revolving lights on motor vehicles is restricted.

A flashing or revolving red light visible from the front and rear may only be used on: (1) ambulance; (2) a police or fire department vehicle; (3) a school bus while taking on or unloading passengers.

A school bus may be equipped with flashing amber lights. In addition, flashing amber lights may be used on a vehicle transporting explosives or a motor vehicle towing a wide trailer.

### **Four Way Flashers**

When a vehicle is equipped with a switch permitting the parking and tail lights to flash, the flashing lights can be used when the vehicle is parked on the highway or any portion thereof due to an emergency or under circumstances beyond the control of the driver.

### **Spot Lamps**

Any motor vehicle may be equipped with not more than one spot light but it must never be so aimed that it shines directly on or within 30 metres (100 feet) in front of an approaching vehicle.

### **Fog Lamps**

Any motor vehicle may be equipped with not more than two fog lamps and they can only be used when headlights of the vehicle are on low beam.

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### **3.2 Brakes**

Every motor vehicle must be equipped with an adequate foot brake and an emergency brake in good working order.

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### **3.3 Horn**

Every motor vehicle must be equipped with a horn in good working order that can be heard for a distance of not less than 60 metres (200 feet) but a horn must not emit an unreasonably loud or harsh sound or whistle. The horn should be sounded whenever it is necessary to ensure safe operation of a vehicle or to give warning of the approach of a vehicle.

Except for authorized emergency vehicles, no siren, whistle or bell is to be used.

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### **3.4 Mirror**

Every motor vehicle must be equipped with a mirror so located as to reflect to the driver a view of the highway for a distance of at least 60 metres (200 feet) to the rear of such vehicle. Portable door or fender mirrors are illegal when not towing trailer or other vehicle.

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### **3.5 Windshields and Windows**

All windshields and windows must be kept clear of any signs, posters or other non-transparent material which obstruct the driver's clear view of the highway or any intersecting highway.

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### **3.6 Ornaments**

No person is permitted to drive a motor vehicle on the highway having any ornaments or decorations, either inside or outside of the vehicle, located so that they obstruct the vision or distract the attention of the driver.

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### **3.7 Windshield Wipers**

Windshield wipers shall be maintained in good working order.

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### **3.8 Slow Moving Vehicle**

Except when directly crossing the highway, every farm tractor and self-propelled implement of husbandry and any other type of vehicle prescribed by Regulation, when operated on a highway or any vehicle towed by them, shall have a slow moving vehicle emblem as prescribed by the Registrar attached to the rear thereof in accordance with the Regulations.

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### **3.9 Mufflers**

Every motor vehicle must be equipped with a muffler and exhaust pipes in good working order and in constant operation to prevent excessive or unusual noise. No person is allowed to use a muffler cut-out, by-pass or similar device, upon a motor vehicle on the highway.

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### **3.10 Speedometer**

Every motor vehicle must be equipped with a speedometer in good working condition so as to show the speed at which the vehicle is travelling.

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### **3.11 Height, Width and Length of Vehicle**

A vehicle without a special permit may not exceed a total outside width, including load, of 260 centimetres (102 inches), a height of 415 centimetres (13 feet, 6 inches); in the case of a two or three axle vehicle which is 12.5 metres (40.6 feet) in length and in the case of a combination of vehicles coupled together, a length of 23 metres (75.5 feet) limited to two trailers while being hauled by a truck-tractor.

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### **3.12 Studded Tires**

It is permissible to use studded snow tires of a type approved by the Registrar at any time except during the period commencing on the first day of May and ending on the fifteenth day of October in every year. The use of studded tires may cause more of a skid in an emergency stop than rubber tires depending on road conditions.

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### **3.13 Disabled Vehicles**

Where a motor vehicle is disabled on a highway at nighttime, the operator shall forthwith place a portable reflector unit or standard at a distance of approximately 30 metres (100 feet) to the rear of the motor vehicle at or near the edge of the roadway.

The driver of a truck over 2 metres (80 inches) wide, passenger bus, motor vehicle towing a house trailer or a truck tractor is required to display three reflector units, one beside the vehicle, one 30 metres (100 feet) to the rear and the third 30 metres (100 feet) ahead of the disabled vehicle. A Safety Red Triangle is recognized as a portable reflector unit.

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### **3.14 Safety Chain**

Trailers and other objects or devices drawn by a motor vehicle on a highway must have a secondary means of attachment to the towing vehicle in the form of a "safety chain". The safety chain should not be attached to the hitch but to the frame/bumper portion of the vehicle.

## 4. TRAFFIC ON THE HIGHWAY – RULES OF THE ROAD

**Radar Detectors**  
Both possession and  
use of radar detectors  
is illegal in  
New Brunswick.

It is an offence for any person to fail to comply with an order, a signal or a direction of a peace officer or to fail to observe the instructions of any official traffic sign or signal except when otherwise directed by a peace officer.

### 4.1 Collisions

The driver of any vehicle involved in a collision causing death or injury to any person or property damage must stop at the scene of the collision, give his/her name, address, the registration number of his/her vehicle along with the liability insurance card and show his/her driver's licence to the person struck or to occupants of any vehicle collided with or to a witness and shall render all reasonable assistance to any injured person.

#### First at the Scene

Remember, handling the injured must be avoided unless there is added danger of being struck by oncoming motorists.

#### Emergency Vehicles

Upon the approach from either direction of any authorized emergency vehicle giving an audible signal by way of bell or siren and visual by flashing red lights, the driver of all vehicles must immediately drive to the right hand curb and must stop and remain stopped until the emergency vehicle has passed, unless otherwise directed by a peace officer.

#### Reporting Collisions

Collisions resulting in death or injury to any person, or total property damage to an apparent extent of \$1,000.00 or more must be reported immediately to the nearest office of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police or if in a town or city, to a member of the local police.

Collision reports must be forwarded to the Registrar of Motor Vehicles within 24 hours.

The Registrar of Motor Vehicles is authorized to suspend the operating privileges of any person failing to report a collision.

**Financial Responsibility**

A driver involved in a collision in which a person is injured, even slightly, or killed, or when the total property damage amounts to \$1,000.00 or more, must be able to prove his/her financial responsibility at the time of the collision. The accepted proof is a New Brunswick Liability Insurance Card, issued by an authorized insurance company, showing that public liability and property damage coverage has been issued on behalf of the driver or the owner of the vehicle.

The Registrar, on receipt of a collision report that does not show the owner or driver has financial responsibility, must suspend the motor vehicle privileges of the owner and operator and cancel all registrations and licence against both the owner and driver. Before reinstatement can be made, proof of financial responsibility for the future must be filed with the Registrar of Motor Vehicles.

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### 4.2 Speed Restrictions

Where no speed hazard exists that require lower speed, the speed limits on provincial streets and highways are:

- a) 50 km (30 miles) per hour in any urban district;
- b) 80 km (50 miles) per hour in other locations or as otherwise posted.

This means that a driver apprehended at speeds in excess of those noted above is committing an offence.

**OTHER SPEED LIMITS MAY BE INDICATED FOR CERTAIN SECTIONS OF THE HIGHWAYS BY SIGNS ERECTED BY ORDER OF THE TRAFFIC AUTHORITY AND THESE POSTED LIMITS MAY NOT BE EXCEEDED.**

No person is permitted to operate a vehicle upon any highway at such a speed as to endanger the life, limb or property of any person, including his/her own.

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### 4.3 Slow Drivers

It is an offence under the Act for any person to drive at such a slow speed as to block the normal and reasonable movement of traffic, except when reduced speed is necessary for safe operation.

Should a driver find it necessary to drive at a slow speed on the open highway, he/she must always keep well to the right and occasionally look back to see if traffic is being slowed down and if so, the driver must pull off the road and give the traffic a chance to pass.

To delay traffic is a discourteous and illegal act and greatly increases the chance of a collision. The "road hog" is a menace almost as great as those who drive too fast for conditions.



#### 4.4 Overtaking

Except when overtaking and where passing on the right is permitted, the driver of an overtaken vehicle must move to the right in favour of the overtaking vehicle upon hearing audible signal and shall not increase the speed of his/her vehicle until completely passed by the overtaking vehicle.

It is an offence to pass another vehicle on the right except when:

- a) overtaking a vehicle making a left turn or signalling a left turn;
- b) on a one way street;
- c) on streets and highways marked for multi-lanes going in the same direction.

Extreme care should be taken in the above situations because other drivers may swerve over to the right without warning. **You must not drive off the roadway onto the shoulder to pass another vehicle.**

It is unlawful for a vehicle to be driven to the left side of the roadway under the following circumstances:

- a) When approaching the crest of a grade or upon a curve in the highway where the driver's view is obstructed within such distance as to create a hazard in the event another vehicle might approach from the opposite direction.
- b) When approaching within 30 metres (100 feet) of or crossing any intersection or railroad grade crossing; or
- c) When the view is obstructed upon approaching within 30 metres (100 feet) of any bridge, viaduct or tunnel).



#### **4.5 School Zones, School Buses and Construction Zones**

If you are approaching a school bus from the front or the rear that has stopped to take on or discharge passengers as indicated by flashing red lights, you must bring your vehicle to a full stop not less than 5 metres (16 feet) in front or rear of the school bus and

wait while passengers are embarking or disembarking and you shall not proceed until the school bus resumes motion or until signalled by the school bus driver to proceed.

When driving in a school zone, you must take extra caution and reduce speed. Recent amendments to the *Motor Vehicle Act* have doubled fines for speeding in a signed school zone. This increase will

provide safer access for children and pedestrians on roadways while traveling to school facilities. The speed limit for school zones is 50 km/h in an urban district unless a different rate of speed has been prescribed on the signs facing approaching traffic. This speed limit for school zones is in effect between the hours of 7:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. on the days which school is in session.



Speeding is an issue of great concern within construction zones. To help address this issue, fines for this offence have been doubled to improve the safety of workers. Drivers should comply with the speed limit prescribed by signs that have been erected by the Department of Transportation while a worker is present within the construction zone. This speed limit is 50 km/h in an urban district unless a different rate of speed has been prescribed on the signs facing approaching traffic. In sections of the zone where no speed limit has been posted, the limit is 80 km/h. Proper signs also mark the commencement and the end of the zone for approaching traffic.

#### 4.6 Drive on Right Half of Highway

Upon all highways of sufficient width, vehicles must be operated on the right half of the highway and slow moving traffic must move close to the right hand edge or curb.

**Keep well over on your side of the road.  
Do not hug the centre line.**

#### 4.7 Laned Traffic and Pavement Markings

Where a street or highway has been divided into lanes for traffic, a vehicle must be driven within a single lane.

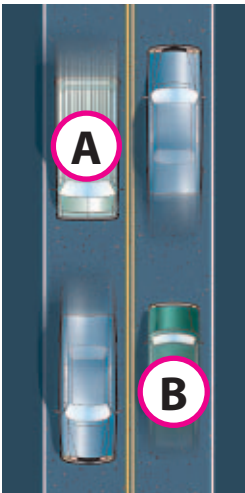
A vehicle must be driven in the lane nearest the right hand edge of the highway, except when preparing to make a left turn or when passing another vehicle.

##### White lines

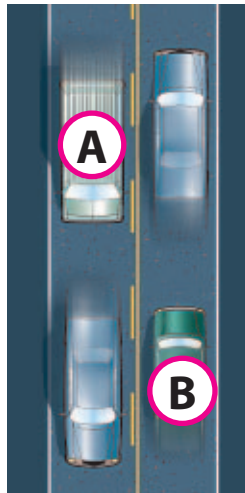
White lines are used to divide lanes of traffic moving in the same direction. White lines also may mark the right shoulder of the highway.

##### Yellow lines

Yellow lines on the pavement divide traffic moving in opposite directions. They are for your guidance and protection and can assist you in driving safely.



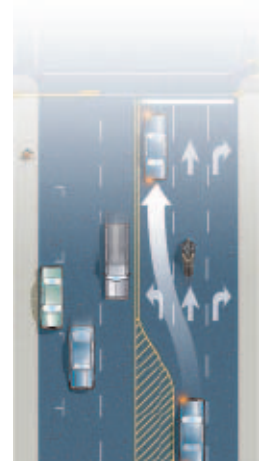
Neither A nor B may pass.



A may pass, but B is prohibited from passing.

##### Painted Islands

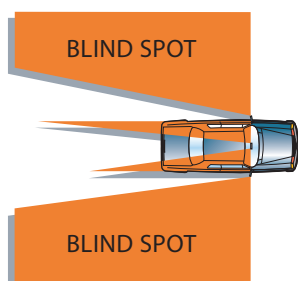
These markings are painted on the pavement at an approach to an intersection to provide a protected or exclusive lane for left or right-turning vehicles. Once in the turning lane, the motorist must turn left or right only, as the case may be, and **should not drive over the striped, painted islands**. Pavement arrows are used to show the direction in which the driver should move when using the lane concerned.



When the centre markings consist of two yellow lines and the solid line is on your side you are prohibited from passing. When the broken line is on your side it indicates that passing is permitted if traffic and other conditions allow.

A single broken yellow line marking the centre of a highway permits passing when traffic, sight distance and other conditions are ideal. A solid single yellow line indicates that passing is not permitted.

#### 4.8 Blind Spots



All vehicles have a “blind spot” in the right and left rear corners. Your rear view mirror will not show a car in the lane next to yours when its front bumper is about even with or ahead of your rear bumper. If you rely only upon your inside mirror and turn into another lane without looking over your shoulder you could collide with a vehicle travelling in your blind spot.

#### 4.9 Passing

Many serious collisions are caused by improper passing. After deciding that it is necessary to pass and pavement markings permit, to avoid collisions, follow these rules:

1. Stay back. Often the habit of moving up closely behind a vehicle leads to collisions. Your view of the road ahead is obscured and it becomes necessary to cut out sharply to pass. When you do cut out, you may not have the time to pull in should there be an oncoming car.
2. Check ahead for oncoming vehicles or obstructions.
3. Check your rear view mirror for vehicles which may be overtaking you from behind.
4. Signal left.
5. Check your “blind spot” by looking back over your left shoulder.
6. Move left gradually.
7. Accelerate (You are not permitted to exceed the posted speed limit).

**Do not attempt to pass a vehicle on a curve or hill. Keep to your own side of the “life line”.**

8. Signal right after you have passed. Look over right shoulder.
9. Move right when you can see in your rear view mirror the headlights of the vehicle you have passed.
10. Resume your normal speed and cancel signal.

**Caution**

When approaching at night use low beam headlights until you have started to pass.

If another driver wants to pass you and gives audible warning, you must give way by driving to the right and must not increase your speed until the driver has completed the passing procedure.

It is unlawful to drive left of centre of the highway if you do not have sufficient distance to permit overtaking and passing another vehicle to be completed safely. You must not prevent the safe operation of any vehicle; either the one you are passing or one approaching from the opposite direction.

In any event, it is illegal to pass or drive left of the centre of the highway on a curve or when approaching the crest of a hill where your view along the highway is obstructed within a distance of 150 metres (500 feet) or where the pavement markings prohibit.

When changing lanes, never move from one lane of traffic to another until you make certain that you can do so safely. This means that you must check oncoming traffic for safe clearance to the side of, ahead of and behind your vehicle and give the proper signal before changing lanes.

LEFT TURN



RIGHT TURN



SLOW TO STOP



#### 4.10 Signalling

The law requires you to signal other drivers of your intention to stop or decrease the speed of your vehicle, turn to the left or the right, change from one lane of traffic to another lane of traffic, leave the roadway or set your vehicle in motion from a parked position.

If a vehicle is so constructed or loaded as to prevent the hand and arm signal from being visible, or if any portion of the vehicle or the load on the vehicle extends more than 60 centimetres (24 inches) to the left of the centre of the vehicle's steering wheel, the signal must be given by a mechanical or electrical signalling device.

Signals must be given by signalling devices, stop light or hand and arm. Give correct signals well in advance and in such a way as to be plainly visible to other drivers. Check your signalling devices frequently to ensure that they are working properly.

All signals shall be given at least 30 metres (100 feet) before making a turn.

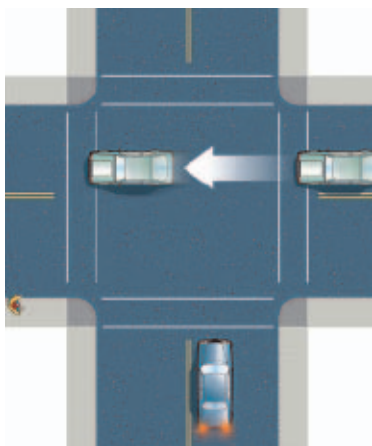
#### 4.11 Right of Way

The fact that you believe you should be granted the right of way does not necessarily relieve you from responsibility for a collision.

##### Intersection

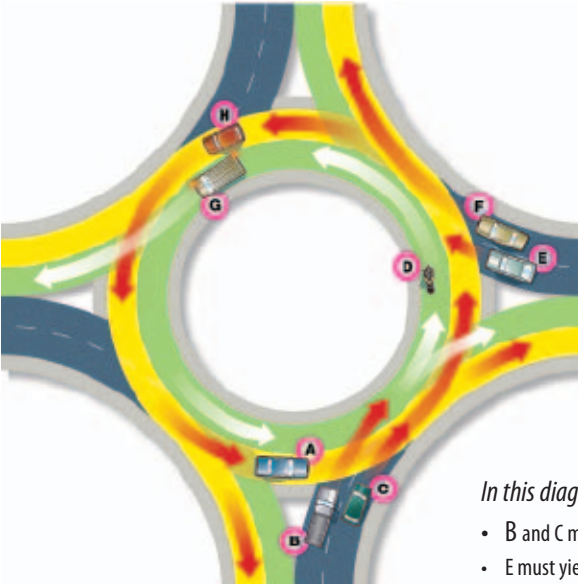
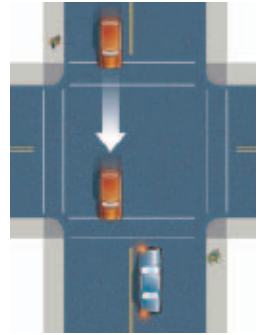
When approaching an intersection you must yield the right of way to a vehicle which has entered the intersection.

When two vehicles enter an uncontrolled intersection (three or four way stop signs) at approximately the same time, you must yield to the driver on your right. If the intersection is controlled, the lights control the authority to proceed.



## Left Turn

The driver of a vehicle intending to turn to the left must yield to any vehicle approaching from the opposite direction which is within an intersection or so close as to constitute an immediate hazard. Keep wheels straight until ready to turn.



*In this diagram:*

- B and C must yield to A.
- E must yield to D while F and D proceed.
- H must yield to G.

## Rotary

When driving in a rotary or traffic circle you must drive in a counter-clockwise direction. If you are approaching a rotary or traffic circle, you must yield the right of way to traffic which is already in it and which is approaching so closely as to constitute an immediate hazard.

### **Driveway**

Before entering a highway you must yield the right of way to all vehicles approaching on the highway.



Before emerging from an alley, driveway or building in a business or residential district, you must stop your vehicle immediately prior to driving on the sidewalk or on the sidewalk area extending across any alleyway.

Before entering an alley, driveway or building or across a sidewalk, you must yield the right of way to pedestrians crossing the entrance to the alley, driveway or building or on the sidewalk at the point where your vehicle is crossing.

### **4.12 Railway Crossings**

When the driver of a motor vehicle approaches a railroad crossing and notices the lights flashing or a flagman or a train dangerously close to the crossing, the driver must bring his/her vehicle to a stop not less than 5 metres (16 feet) from the nearest rail and shall not proceed until he/she can do so safely.

A driver shall not drive his/her vehicle around any gate or barrier used to prevent vehicles from crossing the track(s).

In cases where traffic is heavy and slow, i.e. city, a driver should never start to cross a track(s) unless there is sufficient room across the track(s) to accommodate the whole vehicle in order to prevent stopping across any part of the track(s).

All buses or other vehicles carrying passengers for hire or any vehicle carrying an explosive substance



or flammable liquids as cargo are required to stop, listen and look in both directions before proceeding through a railway crossing. Be prepared to stop if you are following any of these types of vehicles.

#### **4.13 Yield Sign**

The yield sign is placed at an intersection which does not require a stop sign but does require some control. You must yield the right of way to traffic in the intersection or approaching so closely as to constitute an immediate hazard.

#### **4.14 Stop Sign**

A stop sign means you must bring your vehicle to a complete stop at the clearly marked stop line or at the nearest crosswalk (marked or not marked). If there is no painted crosswalk or stop line, stop just before entering the intersection, allowing room for a pedestrian to cross.

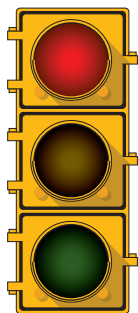
A stop sign means you must bring your vehicle to a stop:

- A:** At a clearly marked stop line
- B:** Before entering the nearest crosswalk, whether marked or unmarked
- C:** At the edge of the travelled portion of the through street or highway where the driver has a view of approaching traffic on the intersecting highway



### 4.15 Traffic Control Signals

Traffic control signals exhibiting green, amber and red lights or green arrow lights indicate the following:

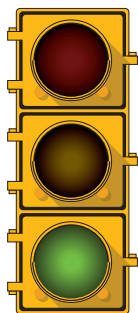
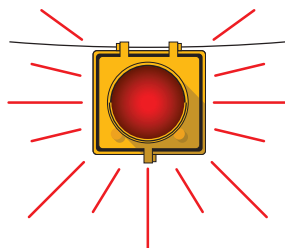


#### Red Light

You must bring your vehicle to a stop at a clearly marked stop line or, if none, before entering the nearest crosswalk or, if none, before entering the intersection. Unless a sign indicates otherwise, a right turn may be made on a red light provided the vehicle is first brought to a full stop and subject always to the right of way of pedestrians and other traffic.

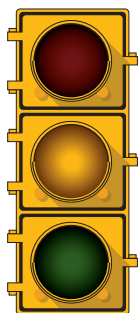
#### Red Flasher Light...

*means STOP* – a complete, dead stop. After stopping, proceed only when the way is clear. (Same as a “Stop Sign”.)



#### Green Light

Motorists and pedestrians may proceed unless a specific pedestrian light is in operation.

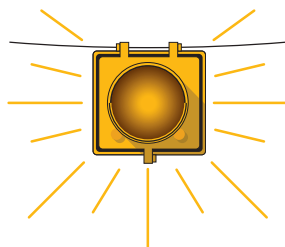


#### Yellow or Amber Light

Caution - Red light coming up. If too close to stop safely or you have already entered the intersection, proceed with caution.

#### Yellow or Amber Flasher Light...

*means SLOW DOWN* – and be extra careful of intersecting traffic, whether you have right of way or not. Proceed with caution.



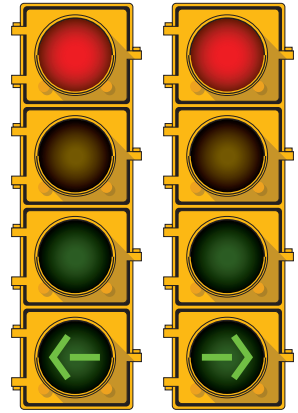
### Red Light – Green Arrow

This signal indicates that motorists may turn cautiously in the direction arrow is pointing, after yielding to pedestrians and other traffic.

### Red or Amber Pedestrian Light



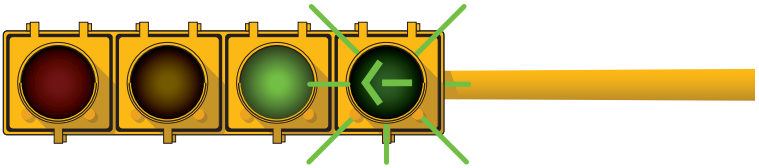
Pedestrian lights in many places are designated by a red or amber light. All vehicles must stop until traffic light changes to green and then proceed cautiously after pedestrians have cleared the crosswalk. Pedestrians may proceed on walk signal.



A driver may cautiously turn right on a red light after signalling and stopping if pedestrian and vehicle traffic will permit, unless a sign prohibits this turn.

### Green Flashing Traffic Light

This is an advance green light which means you can turn left if it is safe to do so.



#### 4.16 Peace Officer

When a Peace Officer is directing traffic and clearly directs you, regardless of signs or signals, follow the direction of the Peace Officer with caution.

#### 4.17 Crosswalk Guard

Crosswalk guards are authorized to stop traffic for pedestrians crossing at crosswalks only.

### 4.18 Turning at Intersections

These are some of the rules for making safe, courteous and legal turns.

1. Prepare for the turn before you get there. Decide well ahead where you want to turn. If you are not sure, drive slowly until you can read the street signs or markers or decide in some other way the direction you desire to turn. Never make last minute turns; they are dangerous.

2. Move into the correct lane as soon as possible. You should move into the proper lane sooner if fast moving and/or heavy traffic.



3. Look behind and on both sides to see where other traffic may be so that you can change lanes and make the turn safely.

4. Signal your intention to change lanes and to turn.

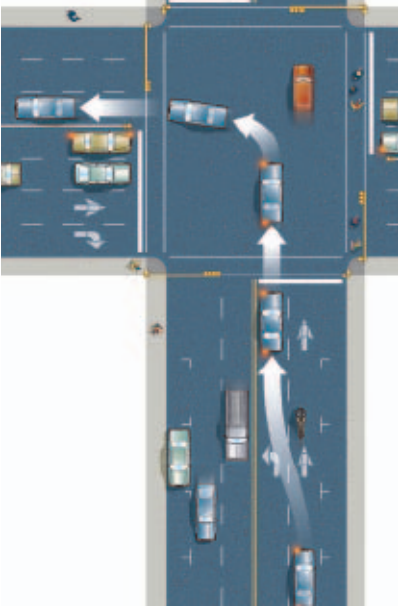
5. To make the turn safely, slow down before you reach the crosswalk and complete

the turn at the same speed at which you entered the intersection. Do not have the brake or clutch pedal pushed down while actually turning. Do not shift gears after entering the intersection.

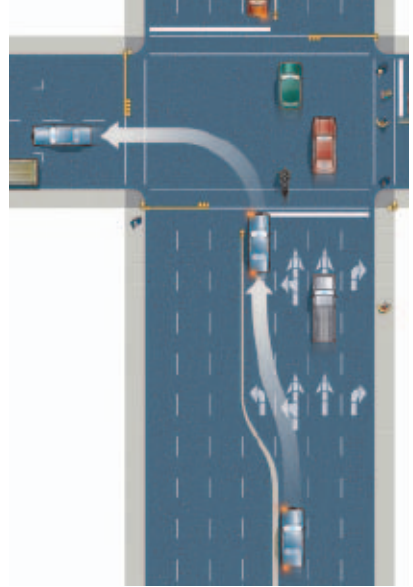
6. Make the turn correctly. This will be easy if you are in the proper lane and are travelling slow enough at the time you start the turn.
7. Finish the turn in the proper lane which is the lane nearest you.
8. If you are stopped in position to make a left turn and waiting for opposing traffic, do not turn the steering wheel to the left until you are sure you can complete the turn. If you are struck from the rear while stopped with the wheels turned to the left, your car may be pushed into opposing traffic and cause another collision.

Do not turn from a direct course unless the move is permitted and can be made with safety.

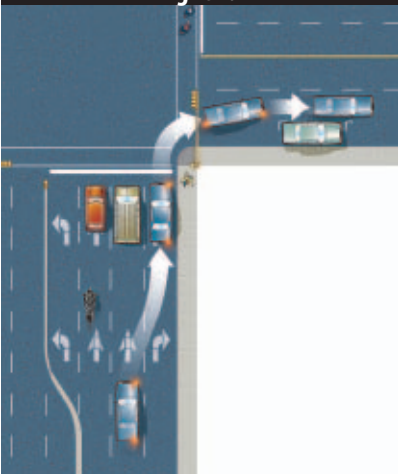
**Left Turn**



**Left Turn – Two Way onto One Way**

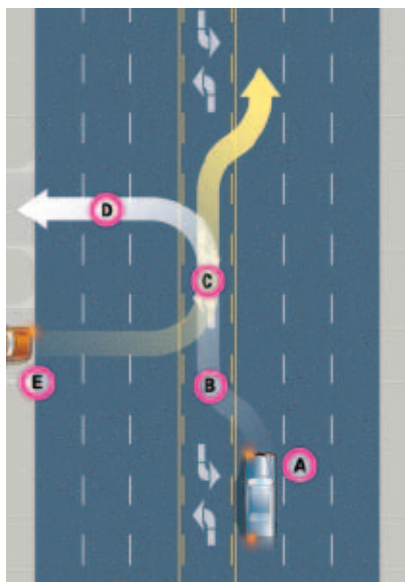


**Right Turn**



**Left Turn – One Way onto One Way**





### Two-Way Left-Turn Lane

The two-way left turn lanes provide traffic from either direction an area to leave the main travelled portion of the street or highway to make a left turn.

To use these lanes position your vehicle **(A)** next to the two-way turn lane, signal your intention to turn left, reduce your speed. Check traffic in all directions, including your left blind spot. When safe move left into the two-way left turn lane **(B)** as near as possible to the point at which the left turn will be made and **(C)** wait for a break in on-coming traffic. When safe, **(D)** complete your left turn.

These lanes also allow for left turns from a driveway (see arrow for car “E”).

**Remember:** Extreme caution should be used. Other vehicles may also be using this lane from the opposite direction.

Some vehicles may block your view of on-coming traffic.

**Caution:** This lane is NOT intended as a passing lane.

### 4.19 Passing on Multi-lane Streets

Always keep well to the right except when you intend to overtake and pass another vehicle or when you intend to make a left turn. Leave the right lane only when it is safe to do so.

#### 4.20 Parking

When leaving a vehicle standing on a rural highway it must be moved off the paved or main travelled part of the roadway, unless the vehicle is so disabled that it cannot be moved.

It is an offence to park a vehicle on the pavement or main travelled portion of a highway if it can reasonably be parked elsewhere.

It is an offence to disregard a parking regulation sign. Under no circumstances can a vehicle be parked on a highway unless there are 5 metres (16 feet) of unobstructed roadway left for the free passage of other traffic and the parked vehicle can be clearly seen for a distance of sixty 60 metres (200 feet) in each direction.

If your vehicle is stopped because it has broken down, you must take precautions to avoid collisions with other vehicles coming toward you.

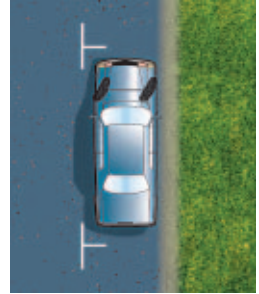
Whenever a vehicle is left unattended, the front wheels should be turned to the curb or side of the highway and the parking brake must be effectively set.

Whenever you park a vehicle on a rural highway at night or whenever lights are required, you must have at least one white or amber light showing from the front on the roadway side of your vehicle and at least one red light showing from the rear on the roadway side of your vehicle.

#### Your Parking Shows Your Skills

Many drivers find parking in a limited space at the curb their most difficult driving operation. To park skillfully, you must be able to have complete control of your vehicle at all times.

#### Parking on a Hill



*Uphill or downhill without curb:  
Steering wheel turned right.*



*Uphill with curb: Steering wheel  
turned left.*



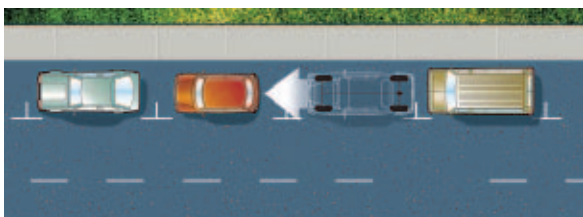
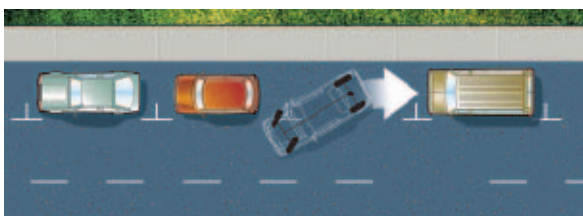
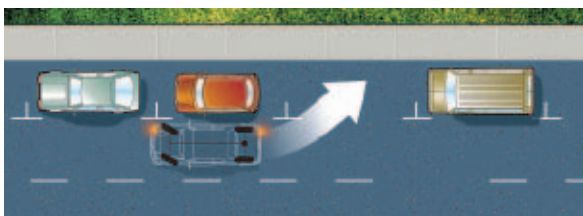
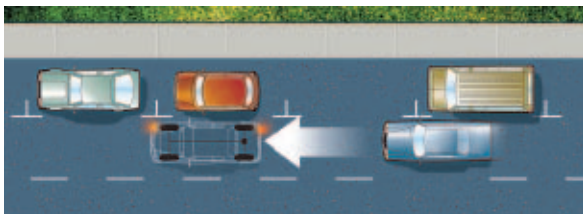
*Downhill with curb: Steering wheel  
turned right.*

**SET PARKING BRAKE**

### Parallel Parking

Many drivers have difficulty with this specific type of parking and it requires more skill.

1. Signal your intention. Stop even with car parked ahead of parking spot and about one-half metre (1 1/2 feet) away from it.
2. Back slowly, turning wheel sharply to the right.
3. Continue to back slowly and straighten your wheels
4. When the front of your car passes the rear of car ahead, turn wheel to the left - sharply, then gradually - while backing while ensuring clear passage.
5. Straighten wheels and pull up to within 60 centimetres (2 feet) of car ahead and close to the curb. (no further than 50 cm (20") from the curb).



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### 4.21 Backing

Backing a vehicle is a difficult task at any time, either to go straight back or to turn to one side or the other. Backing procedures should be completed at a speed no faster than a person walking quickly.

#### Backing Procedures

- Keep your foot on the brake pedal and select reverse gear.
- Do a complete safety scan.
- Get in the proper seating position (photo).
- Aim well into your intended path of travel.
- Move slowly controlling your vehicle with your right/left hand at the 12 o'clock position on the steering wheel.
- Continue to scan in all directions while backing.



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### 4.22 Miscellaneous Traffic Provisions

No person shall drive a vehicle when it is so loaded or when there are in the front seat such number of persons as to obstruct the view of the driver to the front or sides of the vehicle or as to interfere with the driver's control over the driving mechanism of the vehicle, and in no event, when there are more than three persons in the front seat.

Coasting a motor vehicle with the transmission in neutral is prohibited.

No person may deposit any glass, nails, wire, cans or scraps of metals or any rubbish, refuse or waste upon any highway.

No person shall stop a vehicle to load or unload goods other than at the curb or shoulder of the roadway.

No person in control or charge of a motor vehicle shall cause the tires of such vehicle to squeal or make any other unnecessary or unreasonable noise.

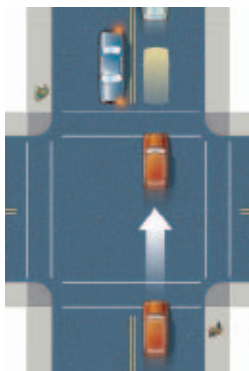
The driver of any motor vehicle carrying passenger(s) for hire or of any bus or any vehicle carrying explosives or flammable liquids, shall not cross a railroad crossing(s) without first bringing his/her vehicle to a complete stop, no closer than 5 metres (16 feet), before the crossing and shall not proceed over the crossing(s) until the way is clear and safe.

### **Passengers in Vehicles**

You must not stop a vehicle on the highway or street for the purpose of taking on or letting off passengers other than at the curb or side of the roadway. You must not permit a person to enter a vehicle while it is in motion.

### **Intersections and Crosswalks**

Except when preparing for a turn, do not enter an intersection or a marked crosswalk unless there is enough space in the roadway on the other side of the intersection for your vehicle to completely clear the intersection or marked crosswalk.



## **4.23 Pedestrians**

### **The Driver's Responsibility**

As the driver of a vehicle you are required to yield the right of way to a pedestrian, which includes a person in a wheelchair, within a marked crosswalk or within an unmarked crosswalk at the end of a block, except at intersections where the movement of pedestrian traffic is being regulated by a peace officer or traffic control signs.

Whenever a vehicle has stopped at a marked crosswalk or at an intersection to permit a pedestrian to cross the roadway it is an offence for the driver of any other vehicle approaching from the rear to overtake and pass the stopped vehicle.

## The Pedestrian's Responsibility

Every pedestrian, which includes a person in a wheelchair, crossing a roadway at any point other than within a marked or unmarked crosswalk at the end of a block, is required to yield the right of way to vehicles upon the highway.

At an intersection where traffic is controlled by traffic signals, it is an offence for a pedestrian to disobey the instruction of any traffic signal placed in accordance with the *Motor Vehicle Act* unless otherwise directed by a peace officer.

**Walk Light** – Pedestrian traffic facing this signal may only proceed in the crosswalk and all other traffic must yield the right of way to the pedestrian traffic.

**Don't Walk** – Pedestrian traffic facing this signal must not proceed across the intersection.



## 4.24 Traffic on the Highway

### Sharing the Road

When driving, remember that there are many different users of our streets and highways. It is everyone's responsibility to be aware and adjust to the presence and actions of others: passenger car drivers, truck drivers, motorcycle drivers, bicyclists, pedestrians, school bus drivers and emergency vehicle operators.

The safety of all road users is shared. The more we make ourselves aware of and accept this responsibility the safer we will make our streets and highways.

### Walking on the Highway

Where sidewalks are provided a pedestrian shall not walk along or upon an adjacent highway.

When sidewalks are not provided any pedestrian walking along and upon a highway must, when practical, walk only on the left side of the roadway or its shoulder facing traffic which may approach from the opposite direction.



Wearing  
dark clothing



Carrying a  
hankerchief



Wearing  
medium clothing



Wearing retro-  
reflective material

## Pedestrian Safety

Pedestrian walking on unlighted highways after dark should carry a light or wear light coloured clothing.

In snow conditions, it is advisable to wear some dark clothing.

## Retro-Reflective Material

Retro-reflective material can be seen at several hundred metres away. This material reflects light from a vehicle's headlights back towards the driver.

## Thumbing Rides

It is an offence for any person to stand in a roadway for the purpose of soliciting a ride from the driver of a private vehicle.

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### 4.25 Horseback Riding

Horseback riders and drivers of horse drawn vehicles are permitted to use streets and roadways unless restricted by signs.

The rider/driver should travel with traffic, as far to the right as possible, obey all signs and signals that apply. Riders should always observe stop signs and use the appropriate hand signals when crossing the road. It is not permitted to ride horseback on the sidewalk, to race the animal or to leave the horse unattended.

Remember, a horse is sometimes unpredictable. Be alert, slow down and give plenty of room until you have safely passed.

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### 4.26 Bicyclists

It is an offence to drive on sidewalks. Bicyclists are subject to the same rules of the road as motor vehicle drivers. A cyclist must drive in the same lane as traffic, as close to the right as possible. Light or reflective clothing should be worn at night. Bicycles should be equipped with a headlight, reflectors and a horn or bell.

**It is mandatory to wear a helmet when riding a bicycle.**

## 5. SAFE DRIVING

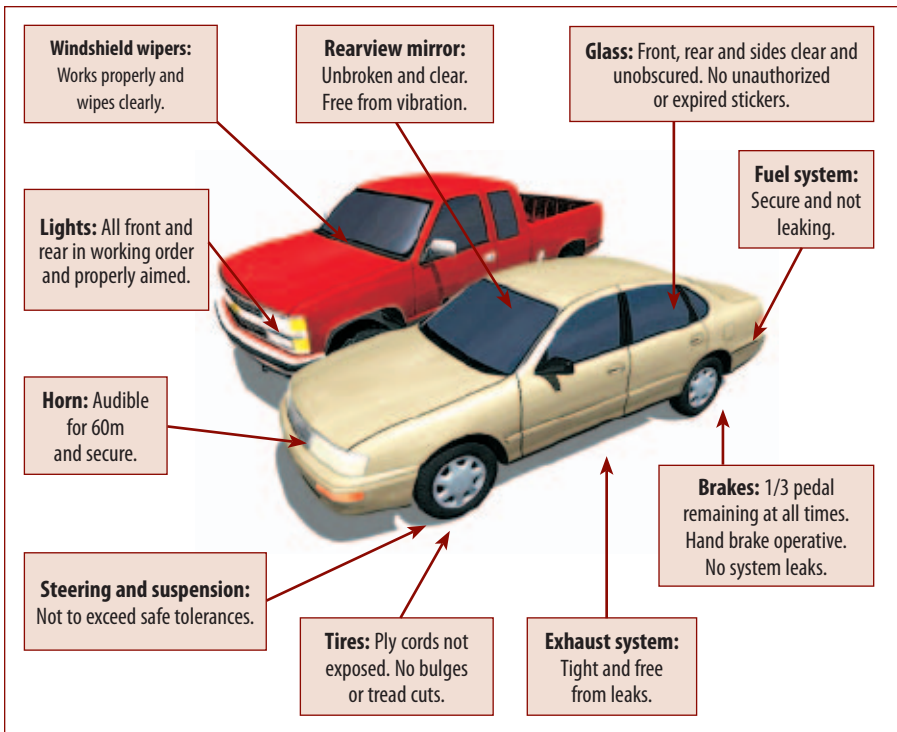
### 5.1 The Vehicle

Your vehicle must be maintained in good mechanical condition to be operated safely. The parts indicated in the diagram particularly affect the safe operation of the vehicle and should be checked regularly by qualified mechanics.

Regular check-ups and careful maintenance will prolong the life of your car.

**Checkups may also prolong your life.**

**Remember that you cannot drive safely in an unfit car.**



## 5.2 Check Your Vehicle

Yes	No	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Brakes</i> – Do they hold promptly and evenly? Will parking brake hold the car?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Head Lights</i> – Do dimming switch and both upper and lower beams work? Are lights aimed to avoid glare? Is the glass clean?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Rear and Stop Lights</i> – Do bulbs work? Do brakes operate stop lights? Is the glass clean and do they show a red light?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Tires</i> – Are they properly inflated? Do you check regularly for worn treads, cuts and breaks?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Windshield Wipers</i> – Do they always operate and wipe glass clean?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Muffler and Exhaust System</i> – Is it free of worn spots, tight and quiet?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Steering</i> – Is steering wheel free of excess play? Wheel bearings tight? Wheels properly aligned and balanced?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Glass</i> – Is it clear and clean? Is it free from cracks, discoloration or stickers to obscure your vision?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Horn</i> – Does it work?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Rear View Mirror</i> – Does it give you a clear view of the road behind? Is it free from cracks and discoloration?

### 5.3 Seat Belts Save Lives

All passengers that occupy a position within a vehicle must wear a seatbelt. The numbers of passengers are limited to the number of operating seatbelts. Violations for not limiting the number of passengers to the number of operating seatbelts will result in a fine.

Drivers must ensure that passengers under 16 years of age use seat belts if available. Passengers age 16 years and older are responsible for buckling up themselves if seat belts are available.



Children must be buckled into proper child safety seats which are fastened to the vehicle by a seat belt and any other straps specified by the manufacturer until they reach one of the following; age of nine, weight of 36 kg (79 lbs) or height of 145 cm (57 inches). Taxis, emergency vehicles and buses are exempt from these provisions.

In vehicles equipped with a passenger front air bag caution should be used in securing a child restraint system in that location. Most vehicle manufacturers advise not to use this location and stress using the rear seating positions. Consult the vehicle Owner's Manual.

Shoulder belts should never be worn without a regular lap belt. Seat belts should be worn and properly adjusted as specified in the manufacturer's Owners Manual.



All new vehicles are equipped with seat belts that must be worn by the drivers and passengers. Many cars are also equipped with air bags. Air bags give additional protection from serious injury in head-on collisions where the driver and front seat passenger may strike the steering wheel, dashboard or windshield. Seat belts must be used in conjunction with air bags.

## ***5.4 Penalties for Seat Belt Infractions***

**Transport Canada recommends that children 12 years and under should be properly restrained in the back seat, especially if the vehicle is equipped with side air bags.**

Police officers throughout New Brunswick may check at any time for seat belt usage by drivers and passengers. Drivers are not assessed points for other passengers but they will be charged for those under 16 who are not wearing a seat belt. Passengers over the age of 16 are charged for the offence with no loss of points

If a driver is convicted of not wearing a seat belt, they must pay a fine and will be assigned a loss of two points on their driving record. While it is an offence for a passenger to not wear a seat belt, there is no assessment of points against a passenger's licence or the driver should a passenger not be wearing a seat belt.



### **5.5 Preparing Your Vehicle for Winter Driving**

Winterize your car and your driving habits. Have these items carefully checked and repaired if necessary.

#### **Radiator**

Check for leaks and proper level of anti-freeze.

#### **Battery**

Cold weather starts add an extra strain on battery life. Check the charge and the water level in the battery.

#### **Brakes**

Have them adjusted or serviced if necessary. Be sure all four brakes are engaging equally. On icy roads, poorly adjusted brakes can cause your car to dangerously skid.

#### **Muffler**

Have it checked for leaks. A leaking muffler or exhaust system can create a carbon monoxide hazard, particularly if you are stalled in traffic or a blizzard. Never start your car in a closed garage. If you start to yawn, have a headache, feel dizzy, weary or nauseated while driving or parked, turn off the motor, get out of the car and walk around. Open your window to let fresh air into your vehicle.

#### **Tires**

Check them and replace any damaged or bald tires. Verify condition to ensure sufficient tread to make the vehicle safe in various ice and snow conditions. Winter driving is safer with snow tires or studded tires. However, the use of studded tires may cause more of a skid in an emergency stop than rubber tires, depending on road conditions.

## **Distracted Driving**

This law prohibits the use of hand-held electronic devices while operating a motor vehicle.

This includes hand-held cellular telephones, texting devices, portable global positioning systems (GPS) and entertainment devices such as video game players and mp3 players.

The bill also prohibits the manual programming or adjusting of any GPS unit while driving. In addition, television style display screens, monitors, DVD players, and computer screens are not permitted within the visual range of the driver unless they are part of a GPS unit or provide information to the driver on the vehicle's various operating systems.

To ensure that you have the latest information on distracted driving it is recommended that you visit the website at [www.gnb.ca/0276/vehicle](http://www.gnb.ca/0276/vehicle).

For added traction and steering control you should mount snow tires on all four wheels. A good compromise would be all season radials with sufficient tread depth to self clean in snow and slush conditions. Do not mix radials with non radial snow tires. Consult your Owner's Manual.

Tire chains may also be carried in the vehicle for use in ice and snow conditions. The use of chains may also cause more of a skid in an emergency stop.

## **Windshield Wipers and Heater/Defroster**

Be sure your wiper blades are in good working condition. Ensure rubber is not broken or worn. Check your heater/defroster unit to be sure it is in proper working order.

## **5.6 The Driver**

Most highway crashes are caused by some fault of the driver. In order of frequency, the most common causes of highway crashes in New Brunswick are:

1. Inattention
2. Operating too fast for conditions
3. Failure to grant right of way.
4. Alcohol
5. Driver distraction
6. View obstructed
7. Following too closely
8. Improper use of lanes

Safe driving – meaning the avoidance of crashes – is the result of a combination of attitude and skill on the part of the individual driver. Skill is acquired largely through proper instruction and careful practice. In addition, if you strictly observe the law and develop an attitude of consideration for others you can help eliminate most highway crashes. Remember, you should adjust your speed according to the conditions of the road.

## Speed

**Speed too fast for conditions is one of the greatest causes of crashes.**

Speed limits indicate the maximum speed at which it is safe to drive under ideal conditions and other conditions mentioned below can only be met safely by a reduction in speed.

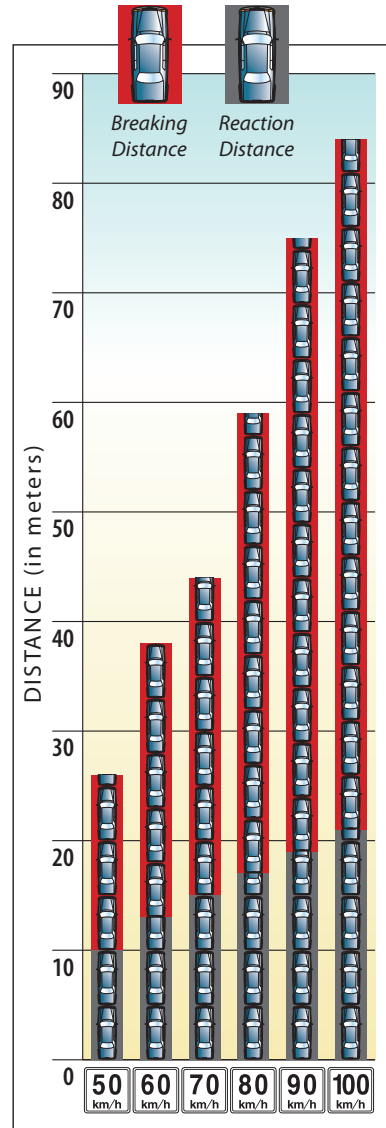
1. Poor visibility.
2. Wet or slippery highway.
3. Pedestrians (adults and children) and/or animals on or near the highway.
4. Heavy traffic.
5. Illness, tiredness or nervous tension on the part of the driver could even be reasons not to drive at all.

The higher the speed, the longer it takes to stop a vehicle and the greater the force of impact in the event of collision. When the speed is doubled, the impact on striking an object is four times as great.

## Stopping

Stopping a vehicle is a complex operation which is performed in two stages:

1. The driver must see a reason for stopping. To see the reason for an emergency stop calls for continual close attention to the road and traffic conditions when driving.
2. As the driver, you must react quickly. You must take your foot off the gas pedal and apply the brakes. The time required for this varies slightly with individual drivers. Under normal conditions, the average reaction time is about three quarters (3/4) of a second. In 3/4 of a second your car travelling at 50 km/h will go 10 metres (about 2 car lengths) before you can even start to apply the brakes.



**Note:** Data based in tests of cars having brakes in first class condition and on dry level asphalt surfaces. Reaction distance is based on average reaction time of three-quarters of a second.



### Driving Posture

Proper handling and control of a vehicle only happens when the driver keeps a good erect posture.

- *Adjusting the seat:* The seat can be moved backward and forward to fit the leg length of each driver (some cars with power seats can also be moved up and down). The seat should be adjusted to allow the driver to sit comfortably in a relaxed position and to reach all the pedals and controls easily.
- *Adjusting the mirrors:* It is essential that all mirrors be adjusted so the driver has good visibility to see traffic behind and cover as many blind spots as possible.
- *Adjust seat belts:* Seat belts should be adjusted properly and not worn loosely. Injuries could result if not worn properly.
- *Headrest:* Ensure that the headrest is properly adjusted
- *Controls:* Become familiar with and locate all interior controls before starting (i.e. wipers, horn, heater, lights, etc.)
- *Foot Controls:* Always use your right foot to operate the accelerator and brake pedal. Your right heel should rest on the floor at the base of the accelerator pedal so that it can easily be moved to the brake pedal, when necessary. Use left foot for clutch in standard gear shift vehicles.
- *Steering Wheel:* Keep both hands on the steering wheel, usually at the 10 and 2 o'clock positions.

### Following

Following too closely or tailgating is a frequent cause of highway collisions. To drive safely you must leave sufficient space between your vehicle and the vehicle ahead so that you can stop in the event of an emergency.

The *Two-Second Interval* is a good way to learn to recognize safe following distance. Just watch the vehicle ahead of you pass some definite point on the highway, such as a sign post. Then count to yourself “one thousand and one, one thousand and two”. If you pass that same spot before you finish the count, you are following too closely. This holds true at any speed. This rule applies to favourable driving conditions. Unfavourable conditions call for lower speed and a longer count.

Another equally valid system is to allow at least one car length for each 20 km of speed.

### Defensive Driving

Defensive driving means driving in anticipation of possible collision situations and being prepared to avoid them.

Many collisions cannot be avoided once they have begun to develop but they might have been avoided if the driver had anticipated and guarded against them. Watch for signs of possible hazards. A ball bouncing on the street may mean a child or animal running out into the roadway; exhaust smoke coming from a vehicle could indicate a driver ready to pull out; a vehicle approaching a stop sign or red light at an obviously fast rate of speed may not stop; brake lights flashing in a line of traffic means you should be prepared to stop. Always watch for any other indication of what a driver or pedestrian might do.

The essence of defensive driving is to reduce your own driving mistakes and to anticipate the mistakes of others (drivers and pedestrians) and guard against them.

### Animals on the Highway

Animal crossing signs warn drivers where there is a known danger of large animals, such as moose and deer crossing the roads.

- Drivers should use caution especially at dawn and dusk



- Animals are unpredictable so reduce your speed
- Stay alert and scan both sides of the road, not just the pavement in front of you

At 30 km/h the impact is the same as if your car fell from the top of a one storey building.

At 60 km/h (double the speed) the impact is the same as if your car fell from the top of a four storey building (four times the force of impact).

## 5.7 White Cane

By law, the use of the white cane is restricted to people with visual impairment. When you see a pedestrian with a white cane you should exercise extreme caution.

*Remember, you can see them but they cannot see you.*

## 5.8 Crash

Some day you may be driving along a highway and come upon a serious collision. Very likely your first instinct will be to run to the car involved and start removing people. Both medical and collision records show that efforts of untrained rescuers often aggravate the injuries caused by the collision. Use the following information as a guide.

### If You Arrive First at a Collision

Prevent a Second Crash - Pull completely off the road far enough away from the crash scene to protect the vehicles from further collisions with other cars.

*Reduce Fire Hazard* – Turn off the ignition of the damaged vehicles. Keep smokers away. In case of fire, try to put it out with a fire extinguisher, dirt or a heavy fire retardant blanket. Caution must be used when approaching a burning vehicle.

*Attend first* – To anyone who is not breathing or who is bleeding severely. To stop the bleeding put the cleanest available pad directly on the wound and apply pressure. Use cloth, handkerchief, clothing or your bare hand if necessary. If the pad becomes blood-soaked, leave it on, put another on top of it. Maintain pressure until professional help arrives.

*Do Not Move the Injured* – Unless they are in a burning car or other immediate danger, leave them in the car until trained help arrives. Do not twist or turn them. Unnecessary moving often complicates injuries. If a driver is trapped by a steering wheel, the pressure can be eased by releasing the seat catch and pulling the seat back. If you are **not** trained in first aid, you can help the injured by:

- a) covering them with blankets or coats to keep them warm;
- b) loosening collars, ties and belts. This helps the injured to breathe more easily; and
- c) calming them by talking to them and telling them that help is on the way.

*Get Help* – Ask the next person who stops to phone for police and/or ambulance. Ask others to warn approaching traffic.

### Artificial Respiration

In a real emergency, to help a person start breathing:

1. Remove anything in the person's mouth that might block air. Tilt the head back, pull chin upward so tongue does not fall back to block airway.
2. Pinch nose shut. Seal mouth with yours. Blow into mouth. Give a full breath for an adult, and a gentle breath for an infant.
3. Remove mouth, take deep breath, blow in air again – every 5 seconds for an adult, every 3 seconds for an infant.
4. If chest fails to rise and you hear no exhaling, recheck mouth for possible blockage, again tilt head back, pull chin up and start the technique again.
5. If you cannot obtain a tight seal over the person's mouth, close mouth and breathe into nose. For an infant, breathe into both mouth and nose.
6. Continue effort until professional help is on hand or until the injured person is breathing.

Otherwise, unless you are trained and know how to perform first aid properly, you should leave it up to someone who does know.



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### **5.9 Alcohol and Driving**

Alcohol induced impairment is the greatest contributing factor in many motor vehicle fatalities. The basic rule underlying all safe driving is to “keep your vehicle under control at all times”.

Drivers who have consumed alcohol do not have complete control over themselves and therefore cannot be in control of a vehicle. They are a danger to their own lives and the lives of others.

#### **What Alcohol Does**

Alcohol is not a stimulant. From the first drink it depresses the central nervous system and the feeling of stimulation that comes is the result of the impairment of the higher functions of the brain, including social restraints and judgement.

When alcohol enters the stomach, it does not have to be digested. It is absorbed through the walls of the stomach and the small intestine into the bloodstream, which carries it throughout the body.

In the brain, alcohol first depresses the area of higher function. Next it attacks the simple motor functions, reaction time and vision. Balance, co-ordination and sensory perception are the next faculties to be impaired. Concentrated drinking will eventually lead to stupor, coma and even, if continued steadily, death.

The most important factors contributing to alcoholic impairment are the amount of alcohol absorbed into the blood and the amount of time allowed for the elimination of this alcohol. This rate is affected by such other factors as body weight, the quantity and type of food in the stomach and the type of alcoholic beverage consumed.

## How the Body Handles Alcohol

Some people seem to be able to “hold their liquor” better than others and this excuse is often quoted by those who do not want to believe that a few drinks can seriously impair driving ability. Because of body weight, fatigue, emotional condition or a number of other reasons, individuals may show differing effects from drinking the same amount of alcohol. However, they may be equally impaired.

Another danger develops when the alcohol starts to “wear off”. You can easily convince yourself that you no longer feel the effects and are perfectly sober. This state of mind is a delusion. You are comparing your peak feeling of impairment with the declining impairment that you feel as your body eliminates the alcohol from the blood. But you are not sober. You are only making a dangerous comparison.

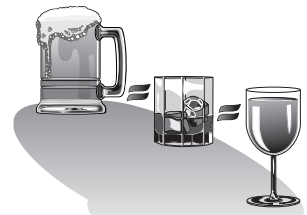
## Fallacies/Remedy

Most of us have tried them at one time or another – black coffee, cold showers, taking a jog around the block. But we must recognize them for what they are – ineffective. There is only one thing that can sober a person: *Time*.

## Drug and/or Medication

While alcohol is the most common cause of driver impairment, there are some other problems that can create a safety hazard. There are a wide range of illegal drugs that cause problems; many of these drugs are extremely dangerous to use especially when driving.

If you have a medical problem and are taking medication, either prescription or over the counter drugs, some of these medications are known to cause inattention and drowsiness – take great care not to drive while taking these drugs.



### DIFFERENT, BUT EQUAL

These standard servings of beer, spirits and wine all contain an equal amount of alcohol.

*So don't be misled  
by appearances.  
And never mix  
drinking with driving.*

Here are some examples of prescription drugs that may affect driving skills:

*Analgesics*

Codeine

Other narcotics

*Antidepressants*

Tricyclic Antidepressants

*Antiemetic Agents*

*Antihistamines*

*Antipsychotic Drugs*

Haloperidol

Major Tranquillizers

Phenothiazines

(e.g. chlorpromazine)

*Ophthalmic Preparations*

*Sedatives and Anxiolytics*

Barbiturates

Benzodiazepines

*Skeletal Muscle Relaxants*

*Other*

Antihypertensive Drugs

Antineoplastic Agents

Chemotherapeutic Agents

Immunosuppressants

Steroids

**Source:**

*Determining Medical Fitness to Drive*  
— A Guide for Physicians

## The Lethal Cocktail

A person may have a minor medical problem (i.e. sinus congestion, influenza, chest cold, etc.) and is taking a type of “over the counter” or prescription medication.

Only one or two drinks along with the medication can cause impairment and create serious problems.

Remember: As a driver you have responsibility to yourself, your passengers and other road users. The passengers in your car are usually your family and friends.

## Alcohol and the Law

All motorists in New Brunswick under the age of 21 must maintain a 0% Blood Alcohol Content while driving. Even if you are well below the 0.08% level of alcohol in the blood accepted as the legal level in law, you can still be impaired. Being apprehended at above 0.08% blood alcohol in the bloodstream, in itself, is a criminal offence. But you can be impaired on one drink.

Drivers in New Brunswick who are found to have a blood alcohol concentration (BAC) between 0.05% and 0.08% milligrams are subject to a 7 day suspension of their driver's licence. With a blood alcohol concentration exceeding 0.08%, a driver will be served with a 90 day administrative licence suspension. Failure to provide a sample will result in a 90 day suspension of your licence.

## Failure or Refusal to Provide a Sample

A breath test for blood alcohol is compulsory under the Criminal Code of Canada. The courts may also convict a person who, without a reasonable excuse, fails or refuses to comply with the demand made by the peace officer to provide a sample of their breath or blood.

## Criminal Code of Canada

The Criminal Code of Canada states that a person is committing an offence when operating or in care and control of a motor vehicle while impaired by alcohol or drugs even though the blood alcohol level is less than 80 milligrams of alcohol in 100 millilitres of blood (.08 percent penalties can include fines, imprisonment or both and a prohibition of driving). Convictions have resulted in the loss of insurance, higher insurance rates and loss of employment.

A peace officer, under the *Motor Vehicle Act*, is including but not limited to the RCMP and municipal/regional forces. New amendments to the *Motor Vehicle Act* give peace officers certain authorities:

- **Stop vehicles** for the purposes of determining whether there is evidence to justify the demand for a breath sample under section 254 of the *Criminal Code*.
- **Demand documentation from drivers** such as drivers licence, proof of insurance, and registration. Other documents may include mechanic's report for motor vehicle inspection, carrier safety fitness certificate, or a bill of lading for commercial drivers.
- **Demand submission to Standard Field Sobriety Testing.** This procedure includes: a) horizontal gaze nystagmus test, b) walk-and-turn test and c) one-leg stand test. This demand occurs when a peace officer has reasonable grounds to believe that a driver is impaired by alcohol/drugs. Refusal to submit to a Standard Field Sobriety Test would lead to a demand to take a breathalyzer test.

If a peace officer has "reasonable and probable grounds" to suspect the presence of alcohol, the driver of a vehicle may be demanded to supply a sample of breath into an approved screening device or to accompany the peace officer to provide a breath sample for analysis (breathalyser). If the person is unable to provide a breath sample, the peace officer may demand a sample of blood be taken by a qualified medical practitioner for analysis. It is an offence to refuse to provide these samples.

A breath test for blood alcohol is compulsory under the Criminal Code of Canada and it is an offence to refuse to take the test.

Penalties under the different sections can range from \$600 to \$2,000 or up to 5 years in jail or both, and suspension of driving privileges.

Amendments to the *Motor Vehicle Act* have established an *Alcohol Ignition Interlock Program* for persons convicted of impaired driving related offences under the *Criminal Code*. These drivers would be prohibited from operating a motor vehicle during a minimum prohibition period imposed by the court. For the remainder of the suspension period, however, the convicted driver could be authorized to operate a vehicle provided that the person was participating in the *Alcohol Ignition Interlock Program* and operating only those vehicles equipped with an interlock device. In order to participate in the program, the person would first be required to complete a drinking driver re-education course as specified under the *Motor Vehicle Act*. The aim of the Alcohol Ignition Interlock Device Program is to modify the behaviour of individuals who frequently drink and drive with a high blood-alcohol content. The length of time that the convicted driver would be required to spend in the program would depend on whether the conviction was the driver's first, second, third (or subsequent) alcohol-related offence as shown in the following table:

Offence	Suspension Period (New Brunswick)	Minimum Prohibition Before Qualifying for Interlock Program (Federal)	Maximum Time in Interlock Program
First	1 year	3 months	9 months
Second	3 years	6 months	30 months
Third (or more)	5 years	12 months	48 months

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### **5.10 Some Rules for Safe Driving**

Courteous drivers seldom cause crashes. Use courtesy and common sense while driving. Follow these safe driving rules to reduce crashes.

1. You must not assume that you will be given the right of way. The other person may not think that he/she should grant it.
2. Slow moving vehicles must drive to the extreme right and must not impede traffic.
3. Do not pass on a hill or curve at any time.
4. When stopping is necessary, see that you and your vehicle are clear of the paved surface or close to the curb. Always exit the vehicle from the curb side. Never park on the left side of the roadway facing traffic.
5. Know and obey all traffic signs and signals.
6. Line markings on the pavement are for your guidance and protection. Where the road is marked with double lines, a solid line on your side prohibits passing. A broken line on your side indicates you may overtake and pass if conditions so warrant. Do not ride the line.
7. When approaching an intersection slow down and check in all directions for hazards.
8. Except when driving in two or more marked lanes going in the same direction, never pass on the approach to an intersection, a bridge or a railroad crossing.
9. When leaving a parked position check oncoming traffic and signal, check your blind spot as well as your mirrors. Pull out only when way is clear, both behind and in front.
10. A driver must yield the right of way to a pedestrian in a crosswalk or in an unmarked crosswalk at the end of a block.
11. Year after year "speed too fast for conditions" is a major cause of collisions in which the driver is held responsible. The remedy is simple - observe road and weather conditions and adjust your speed accordingly.

12. When passing, check for other traffic, ahead and behind. Signal before changing lanes and sound your horn for the driver you are passing. On a two lane highway, do not try to pass more than one car at a time. Don't follow another car that is passing, allow that driver to complete the pass before you attempt to pass. If you are being passed, give way to the other driver.
13. Be extra careful when there are bicyclists and/or motorcyclists on the road. Do not tailgate. Watch for them in your mirror. They may be riding in your "blind spot".
14. Good drivers do more than comply with the law. Be considerate of the other driver. The life you save may be your own.

**Check Your Driving Habits****Yes****No**☐☐**Traffic Laws:** Do you know and drive by the rules?☐☐**Signs, Signals, Markings:** Do you read and heed these "Signs of Life" that point the way to safety?☐☐**Stop and Turning Signals:** Do you let other drivers know your intentions, knowing that the proper signal is a good turn for everyone?☐☐**Traffic Lanes:** Do you always drive in and turn from the proper lane?☐☐**Speed:** Do you slow down here to show up there? Do you keep in mind that speed limits are for your protection? Do you glance at your speedometer frequently so that you may keep within limits?☐☐**Bad Weather Conditions:** Do you always keep an eye on the weather and adjust your driving accordingly? Rain, sleet, snow, ice and fog automatically mean slow!☐☐**Nighttime:** Do you slow down at sundown?☐☐**Pedestrians:** Are you a driver who gives pedestrians a break -- and the right of way?☐☐**Children:** When it comes to traffic, do you always expect the unexpected from children... especially in school zones, near playgrounds and in residential sections?☐☐**One For The Road:** Do you refuse to drive after drinking?

**An important safety device in any car –  
A driver with safe driving habits!**

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### **5.11 The Environment – Highway, Weather and Visibility Conditions**

#### **Friction**

The only contact your car has with the highway is through the tires and it is the friction between the tires and the highway that enables you to start, stop and control the car. This contact is about equal to the length of the palm of your hand. On a wet or slippery road, this friction is greatly reduced and it becomes correspondingly more difficult to stop or control a vehicle.

#### **Stopping on Ice**

If you apply your brakes suddenly on an icy road your car will go into a skid. If you have to stop on a slippery surface, it is advisable to pump the brake pedal – in and out – gradually slowing the vehicle without locking the wheels. (Note: if your vehicle is equipped with ABS, you should **not** pump the pedal. Rather, apply steady pressure.) The use of studded tires decreases stopping distance on ice but can also increase the distance in extreme cold temperatures.

#### **Rain**

Many drivers do not realize that roads are likely to be especially slick just after it begins to rain or drizzle. The first few drops loosen the grease and dirt accumulated on the surface of the road. The loosened grease and dirt mix with the raindrops and the road is quickly covered with a slippery film that makes it extremely dangerous. The first few drops of rain are danger signals telling you to slow down and use extra caution.

#### **Hydroplaning – “Water Skiing on the Highway”**

Hydroplaning takes place on wet roads. As speed increases, your tires start to ride up on a film of water. In a passenger car, partial hydroplaning starts at about 55 km/h and increases with speed to about 85 km/h at which point the tires may be totally up on the water. In a severe rainstorm, for example, the tires lose all contact with the road at 85 km/h. When this is the case, there is no friction available to brake, accelerate or corner. A gust of wind, a change

of road angle or a slight turn can create an unpredictable and uncontrollable skid.

The best thing to do is to take your foot off the accelerator and let the car slow down. If you skid while your car is only partially hydroplaning, you should be able to control by correcting for the particular type of skid that occurs. On the other hand, if you are totally hydroplaning, follow your natural impulse and steer to keep the car going in its original direction but be careful – DO NOT OVERSTEER. When you feel the car regaining traction start to straighten your wheels but be prepared to handle a skid in the opposite direction.

To prevent hydroplaning it is most helpful to have good tires with deep treads. The treads allow the water to escape from under the tires and tend to prevent complete hydroplaning at normal highway speeds. However, when the depth of the water exceeds the depth of the treads, complete hydroplaning can be expected.

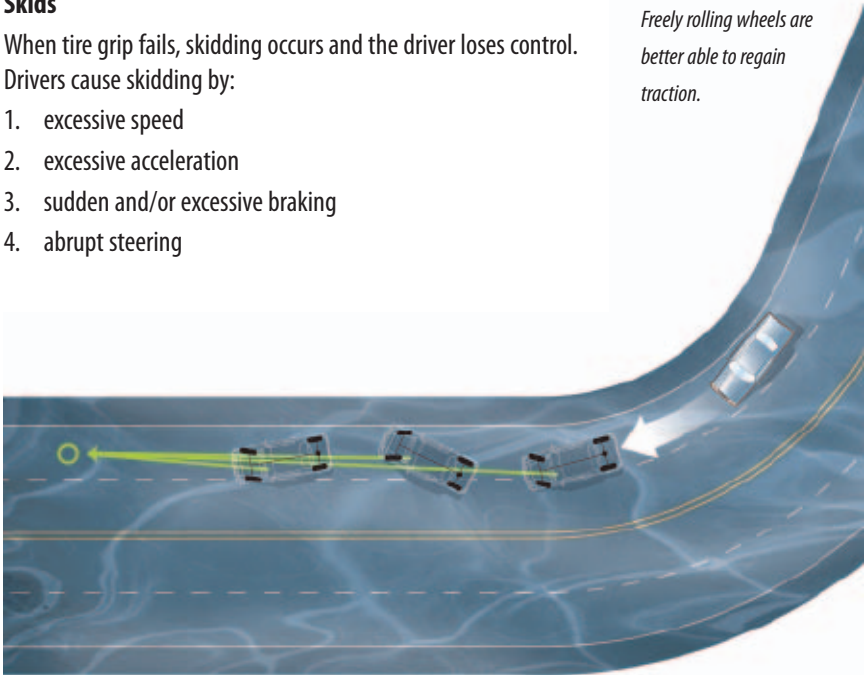
### Skids

When tire grip fails, skidding occurs and the driver loses control. Drivers cause skidding by:

1. excessive speed
2. excessive acceleration
3. sudden and/or excessive braking
4. abrupt steering

*To correct a rear-wheel skid, remove your feet from the pedals and steer in the direction of the skid. To correct a four-wheel skid, release the brake. Reapply it gently and increase pressure slowly to avoid locking the wheels again.*

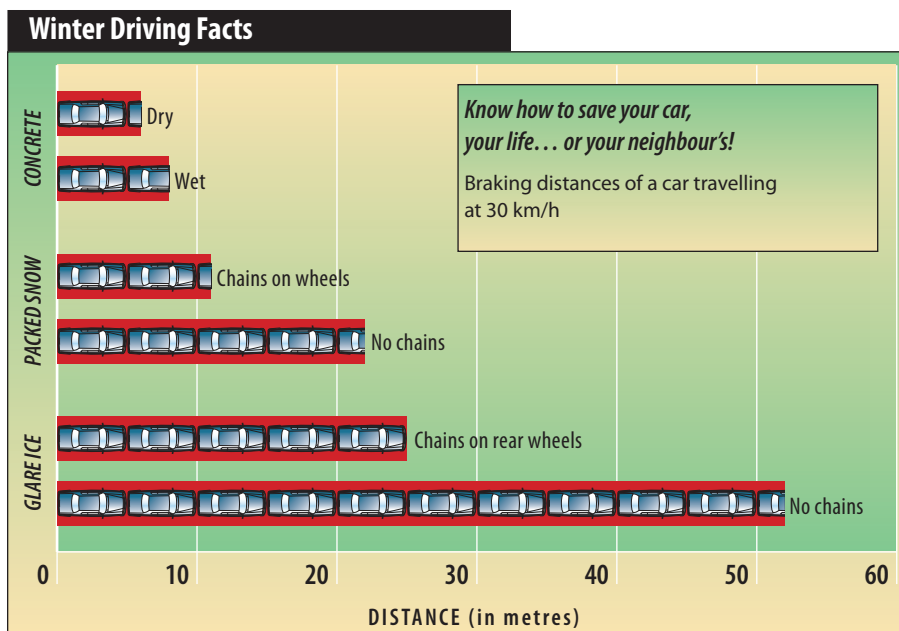
*Experienced front wheel drive vehicle drivers may find that gentle acceleration will help the vehicle pull out of a rear wheel skid. If the front wheels skid, take your foot off the accelerator. The engine braking effect may slow the car to the point where front end traction is regained. If the skid continues, depress the clutch or select neutral. Freely rolling wheels are better able to regain traction.*



For added traction and steering control you should mount snow tires on all four wheels. A good compromise would be all season radials with sufficient tread depth to self clean in snow and slush conditions. Do not mix radials with non radial snow tires. Consult your owner's manual.

## Rules For Winter Driving

1. *Accept your responsibility* to do all in your power to drive without collisions. Do not blame the weather for a crash. Be prepared to meet any situation.
2. *Adjust your speed to conditions* – Slow down on wet, snow covered or icy roads so that you can stop in time if you have to. Watch for ice patches, especially in shaded areas, on bridges and on overpasses.
3. *Get the "feel" of the road* – Try brakes occasionally while driving slowly and if away from traffic. Find out just how slippery the road is and adjust your speed to road and weather conditions. Remember, you cannot stop on a dime. Never make sudden moves like slamming on brakes or accelerator. Downshift the gears to slow down for a stop.



4. *Keep the windshield clear* of snow, ice and condensation. Be sure headlights, windshield wiper blades and defrosters are in top working condition. You have to see danger to avoid it.
5. *Use snow tires, tire chains or studded tires* on snow and ice. They cut stopping distances and give more starting and climbing traction ability. However, even with the help of chains or studs slower than normal speeds are a “must” on snow and ice.
6. *Pump your brakes* to slow down or stop. Slamming on the brakes can lock the wheels and cause a dangerous skid. In vehicles without ABS brakes use the threshold braking technique: Keep heel on the floor between the brake and the accelerator. Use toes to press brake to the point of the brakes locking up. Ease off the brake to the “threshold” where the brakes stop locking up.
7. *Follow at a safe distance* – Keep well back of the vehicle ahead of you in order to give yourself room to stop. Remember, without tire chains, it takes up to 12 times the distance to stop on snow and ice as on dry concrete.
8. *Remember* condensation on the pavement of bridges and overpasses freezes before the rest of the roadway.

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### **5.12 Intersections**

Due to the fact that a great many collisions occur at intersections, drivers should exercise extra caution when approaching any cross street or road. Always reduce your speed before entering the intersection and check for oncoming traffic, first to the left and then to the right, to make sure the way is clear before proceeding.

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**5.13 Tire Blow-out**

If a tire blows out do not apply the brake. Let up on the accelerator. Keep the clutch engaged, make sure you have a firm grip on the steering wheel with both hands and slow down gradually until you have come to a stop. One protection against blow-outs is careful tire maintenance and frequent inspection of inside of casing.

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**5.14 Running Off the Pavement**

If a wheel runs off the pavement onto the shoulder of the road, remove your foot from the accelerator and steer straight ahead. When the way is clear behind you, turn wheels to the left and drive slowly back onto the pavement. If you jerk the car back on the road by a quick turn, it may go out of control and swerve into the path of oncoming traffic or overturn.

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**5.15 Curves**

To drive around a curve safely:

1. reduce speed when approaching and
2. gradually accelerate after entering the curve.

Collisions occur when drivers enter at top speed and then attempt to slow down in the curve. If the road is slippery, a slight force would be enough to push the car off the road. If there is an advisory speed posted, slow down to the speed. Never stop, park or make a U-turn in a curve.

Since curves (and hills) obstruct the view of the road, do not pass or back up in these areas.



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### 5.16 Driving at Night

Night driving calls for special care because of reduced visibility. It is particularly important not to overdrive your headlights - that is, to drive at so fast a speed that you cannot stop the car within the distance in which your headlights will reveal objects on the highway. Unless you immediately reduce your speed when deflecting headlight beams, you are driving into a blind area.

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### 5.17 Driving in Fog

Fog is one of the most dangerous driving conditions the driver can encounter. Most drivers recognize the hazards of driving in fog but are unaware of what should be done to increase safety and minimize hazards.

Follow these tips:

1. The very first thing to do when fog is encountered is gradually reduce speed. Avoid sudden stops. Remember that other vehicles - especially trucks - need a greater distance in which to slow down.
2. In dense fog, creep. Most collisions in fog are caused by overdriving visibility distance - in other words, travelling too fast.
3. Drive using low-beam headlights which throw light down onto the road rather than into the fog. Lighted headlights provide an additional safety factor by helping other drivers to see your vehicle. Do not use parking lights under these conditions.
4. When stopping because of poor visibility in fog, be certain to get as far off the road as possible. It's a good idea, especially if traffic is heavy, to get out of the car and move far off the road. Moving off the highway and waiting for the fog to lift is by far the safest thing to do.

It is wise to use the above practices in conditions of densely falling or blowing snow.

---

**SEE AND BE SEEN!**

**Turn on your headlights!**



### **5.18 Limited Access Highway**

#### **Two Lane Highway with Climbing Lane**

Slow traffic lanes are designed to allow faster moving traffic to pass slower moving vehicles.

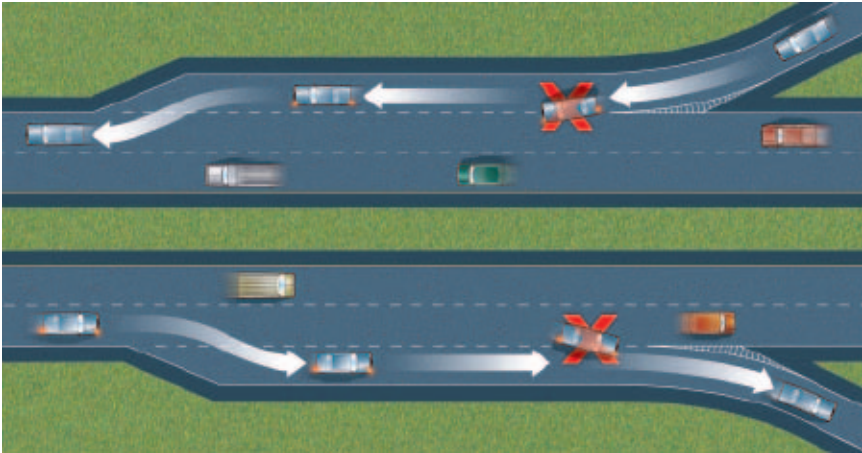
Where a traffic control device directs traffic to use a designated lane, drive in that lane.

In the situation of either a climbing lane or slow traffic lane, at the end the driver in the right hand lane must yield to the driver in the left lane.

#### **Entrance and Exit Ramps**

Limited access roads and other multi-lane highways in the city or country are designed for more convenient and safer driving. However, they are safe only when motorists know and practice the following rules:

1. Plan your route before you use these roads. Follow your guide signs.
2. When approaching exits and interchanges, keep alert - read and obey the signs. Use the proper lanes for leaving or continuing on these highways. If changing lanes, make sure it is safe to do so and give the proper signal.
3. When entering the highway use acceleration lane to increase speed when merging into through traffic. The driver on the road should be prepared to change to the left lane if it is safe to do so or slow down to allow traffic to enter the highway.
4. Use deceleration lanes to lower speed when exiting highway.
5. Drive within the minimum and maximum limits unless the traffic or weather conditions make these limits unsafe. Remember, keep a safe following distance. Leave enough space for an emergency stop.
6. Never stop on the travelled portion of the roadway even if you miss an exit.
7. If you pass your exit, drive to the next one. Never back up on a highway.



### Continuity Lines

Continuity lines are painted on the highway at entry and exit ramps. They indicate the separation between the through lane and the entry/exit ramps. They are wider than the regular lane separation lines and are shown in the sketch.

### Intersections

Modern interchanges involving roads which cross each other at different levels may be designed in a number of ways. For example, at a diamond interchange all exits from the main road are to the right. All turning movements are made at the intersections with the minor road.

## 6. TRAFFIC ON THE HIGHWAY – SHARING THE ROAD

When driving remember that there are many different users of our streets and highways.

It is everyone's responsibility to watch out for and adjust to the presence and actions of others.

- Passenger car drivers
- Truck drivers
- Motorcycle drivers
- Motor driven cycle drivers (moped)
- Bicyclists
- Pedestrians
- School bus drivers
- Emergency vehicle operators

The safety of all road users is shared. The more we make ourselves aware of and accept this responsibility, the safer we will make our streets and highways.

---

### 6.1 Drivers Helping Other Drivers

Driving is a high risk task - it is important to always pay attention – keep your mind on driving— be alert and adjust to the actions of others.

- Keep a safe following distance
- Avoid tailgating
- Avoid crowding other vehicles and leave yourself space in case of an emergency

Check your blind spot and watch for other drivers when turning or changing lanes. Avoid travelling in another vehicle's blind spot.

Avoid sudden or abrupt moves that might confuse other drivers.

Regardless of the speed limit posted, do not drive faster than conditions allow – adjust your speed to weather, road, traffic and vehicle conditions. Winter conditions demand your constant attention – watch for temperature changes, especially at or near the freezing point when roads are most slippery.

## 6.2 Drivers and Large Commercial Vehicles

Very large vehicles can be intimidating to car drivers - the fact is that it works both ways.

### Vehicle Drivers

Large vehicles require more space when making turns at intersections.

- Right Turn – may require the driver to swing left before turning right. NEVER attempt to move into this open space.
- Left Turn – may require the driver to swing wide and use all the extra space.
- Heavy vehicles require longer stopping distances and accelerate more slowly. Avoid passing while going down hill. Wait until you are on level ground and the speed has stabilized.
- Large vehicles have very large **blind spots** – always keep eye contact with the driver. Remember, if you cannot see the driver, the driver cannot see you.
- Allow additional time and distance to pass these vehicles safely.

### Large Commercial Vehicle Drivers:

- must have consideration for smaller vehicle driver.
- do not tailgate, always keep a safe following distance.
- do not attempt to pass unless you have enough time to complete the pass safely.
- be alert while turning for vehicles that may crowd in beside you.
- be alert for smaller vehicles cutting in front of you especially at intersections, driveways, business areas and multi-lane highways.

**NOTE: Driving a large vehicle requires a special person who respects other road users. Think before you act. It takes a lot of knowledge and skill to be a successful *professional driver*.**



---

### 6.3 Drivers and Motorcycles

Vehicle drivers and motorcyclists must share the road and do so safely. Always follow the rules of the road and be alert to the traffic around you.

#### Vehicle Drivers

- Look for motorcycles; make sure you know what the motorcycle driver is going to do before you make your manoeuvre into his/her path.
- A motorcycle is entitled to a full highway lane.  
**Never** crowd into the same lane as the motorcycle.
- Motorcycles can stop quicker than other vehicles – therefore allow extra following distance.
- Motorcycles may be difficult to see and can easily disappear in your blind spot – *USE CAUTION*.

#### Motorcycle Drivers

- Remember your vehicle is small and not easily seen. Make eye contact with other drivers.
- Position yourself to see and be seen - as a rule ride in the left wheel position and keep a safe following distance.
- Maintain your lane position. Do not zig-zag between cars in traffic.

---

### 6.4 Drivers and Bicycles

Riders of bicycles must obey the traffic rules and regulations that apply to all road users. Drivers must respect the bicyclist's right to share the road.

#### Vehicle Drivers

Bicyclists are at greater risk of death or injury – use extreme caution.

- Check your blind spot when turning left and especially when turning right.

- Bicyclists can dart in and out of traffic quickly, expect the unexpected.
- Give the bicyclist room, do not tailgate or crowd the bicyclist.

### **Bicyclists**

You are at greater risk of death or injury in a collision.

- Let others know what you are going to do, use hand signals, and be in the correct lane position.
- Check your blind spots.
- Avoid busy streets.
- Stay off sidewalks.
- Safe bicycling requires knowledge, skill and maturity.
- Keep your bicycle in good working order and properly equipped (i.e. horn, lights and reflectors at night).

**It is mandatory to wear an approved helmet when riding your bicycle.**

---

## **6.5 Drivers and Pedestrians**

### **Vehicle Drivers**

Remember that pedestrians are extremely vulnerable to death or injury in a collision with a motor vehicle.

- Drivers must give the pedestrian the right of way in a crosswalk, unless otherwise indicated by a sign or signal.
- Pedestrians may not act as you expect – expect the unexpected. Be alert.
- Persons with disabilities may take longer to cross the street – give them enough time.
- *Never pass a vehicle yielding to a pedestrian at a crosswalk.*

### **Pedestrians**

- Always stop and make eye contact with drivers. Check ahead, left, right and behind for other vehicles.
- Always look behind the one car you see for passing vehicles - learn to expect the unexpected.
- Cross the street briskly, do not run.

- At night, wear light coloured or reflective type clothing so drivers can see you better.
- Do not rely on the driver for your own safety.
- Obey all traffic signals, use crosswalks and sidewalks.

**Important Note:**

Drivers must always be aware that pedestrians can be hidden in the vehicle's *blind spot*:

- behind the rear view mirror.
- beside the door pillars.
- to the sides of the vehicle.
- in front of and behind the vehicle (do a circle check before starting).

---

**6.6 Drivers and School Buses**

Transportation of school students is an important part of our education system and requires the co-operation of all drivers.

**Vehicle Drivers**

School buses are specially marked and have alternating flashing lights.

- Alternating flashing **amber** lights are to be used 150 metres (500 feet) before the school bus stops to pick up children. Be alert for students.
- Alternating flashing **red** lights are used when the school bus is stopped, *while* picking up or discharging students.

**It is illegal to pass a school bus displaying the alternating flashing red lights.**

**School Bus Drivers**

- School bus drivers should be courteous and assist in maintaining the flow of traffic.
- Be alert for passing motorists when picking up or discharging students.

- Train your students to be alert and cautious when using the school bus.
- All drivers hired to transport children to and from school must obtain a “B” or “C” endorsement on their driver’s licence.

**Drivers of school buses must stop before proceeding through a railway crossing unless otherwise indicated.**

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### **6.7 Drivers and Emergency Vehicles**

Drivers of emergency vehicles and other vehicle drivers must share the responsibility of assisting in dealing with emergencies.

#### **Drivers**

When approached by an emergency vehicle using siren and flashing lights:

- Pull over to the right and come to a complete stop. Allow the emergency vehicle to proceed.
- Yield the right of way to emergency vehicles at intersections.
- It is an offence to follow an emergency vehicle within 150 metres (500 feet).

#### **Emergency Vehicle Drivers**

- May only use siren and flashing lights when responding to an emergency.
- Are required to drive with due regard for the safety of all persons using the highways at all times.

---

### 6.8 Drivers and Farm Vehicles

In recent years, the number of collisions on Canadian highways involving farm equipment has increased. The equipment has become larger in size and the speeds at which they operate are higher. However, in most cases, the equipment has not kept pace with other vehicles using the highways. When approaching, it can be difficult for other drivers to determine the rate of speed at which the farm equipment is traveling. Three major types of accidents involving farm equipment include:

- rear end collisions with moving vehicles,
- collisions at intersections where the direction of movement of the farm vehicle was difficult to recognize and
- overtaking a farm vehicle that is turning left.

As a result, new regulations have been made regarding the safe movement of farm vehicles. It is important that all other road users be familiar with safe driving practices when in the presence of such vehicles:

- **BE ALERT!** - Watch for slow moving farm equipment and adjust your speed accordingly. Give these drivers the courtesy that you would expect if you were driving the equipment.
- **BE AWARE!** - Look for any farm lanes near the highway and watch for signs indicating high volumes of agricultural equipment. When you encounter slow-moving equipment, slow down, keep your distance and assess the situation.
- **DO NOT PASS!** - First ensure that the operator of the farm equipment is fully aware of your intentions. Be sure that the way is clear. Always check your rear view mirror for other approaching vehicles that may be traveling at a faster rate than you.
- **BE PATIENT!** - Often, these large farm vehicles will not be able to respond to you immediately. It may be impossible for the equipment to move over right away if there are obstructions or soft shoulders on the road.

## 7. TRAFFIC SIGNS

Many collisions and near crashes occur as a result of drivers who ignore or fail to respond appropriately to traffic signs. It is essential that the meaning of traffic signs be interpreted correctly. Signs are classified according to their function: regulatory, warning and information.

The easiest way to identify traffic signs is to learn to recognize their shapes and colours. For safe driving, you must recognize and obey traffic signs without hesitation.

A sign-conscious driver is a safe driver. Keep a constant look-out for signs as you move your eyes in the field of view ahead of you.

---

### 7.1 Six Basic Sign Shapes Every Driver Must Know



#### Stop

The stop sign, a red octagon with white lettering, means come to a full stop and be sure the way is clear before proceeding.



#### Yield

Yield Right of Way signs are triangular and have a red border on a white background.

A yield sign means you must reduce speed when approaching an intersection. Give right

of way and stop if necessary if any other traffic is in, or closely approaching, the intersection.



#### Regulatory

Regulatory signs are white rectangles or squares with black or other coloured lettering. These signs state the law, such as speed limits, parking regulations and turning and passing movements.



## Warning

Warning signs are diamond shaped and are yellow or orange with black letters or symbols. They warn of dangerous or unusual conditions ahead, such as a curve, turn, dip or side road.

## Railway Crossing

The crossbuck is the traditional symbol at roadway-railway crossings. Signs with a red reflective border on a white reflective background have replaced the older sign with "Railway Crossing" in black lettering.

## School Zone

This five-side (pentagonal) sign indicates a school zone. *When children are present in a school zone, slow down, watch for children and exercise extreme caution.* The maximum speed permitted is 50 km/h unless otherwise posted.

Regardless of the speed limit posted in a school area, your speed must be reasonable and prudent for existing conditions.



## 7.2 Standard Sign Colours

Each colour has a particular meaning.



**Red** – Stop or prohibition



**Blue** – General information or service road information



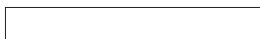
**Green** – Indicates traffic movement such as turns which are permitted or directional guidance



**Yellow** – General warning danger/caution



**Fluorescent Yellow** – School zone and school crosswalk ahead signs



**White** – Regulatory



**Orange** – Construction and maintenance warning



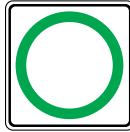
**Brown** – Off road facilities/motorist services

### 7.3 Regulatory Signs

Regulatory signs inform drivers of laws and regulations affecting the use of the highway. It is an offence under the *Motor Vehicle Act* to disregard them.



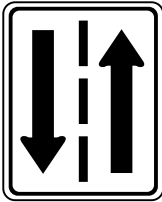
One-way street  
or highway



*Signs with a green circle give  
permission, as indicated*



*Signs with a red circle with a  
slash deny permission,  
as indicated*



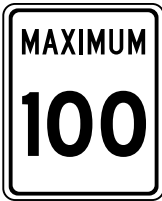
Two-way traffic



Passing Permitted



Passing Not Permitted



The maximum speed allowed  
under ideal conditions



Heavy trucks should use  
this roadway



No heavy trucks are allowed  
on roadway



Advance warning of a lower  
maximum speed zone ahead



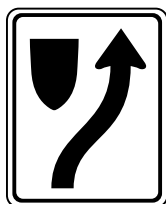
Dangerous goods route



Dangerous goods carriers  
prohibited



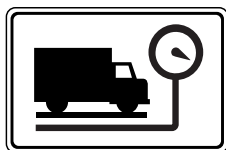
Do not enter



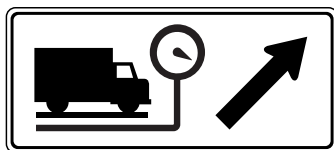
Keep to the right of traffic islands or obstruction



You must not turn your vehicle around in the roadway to travel in the opposite direction (no U-turn)



Truck inspection station



Inspection station exit  
Arrow indicates which side of road



Weight limit of vehicle permitted on highway or bridge expressed in tonnes

### Parking Signs



Parking prohibited as indicated



Stopping prohibited as indicated

### Parking Signs



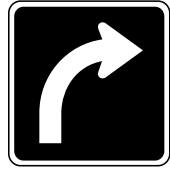
These signs indicate pedestrian movement, either at an intersection or mid-block. You must yield to pedestrians within the crosswalk.

### Lane Designation Signs

These signs may be mounted above (or to the side of) the roadway. When mounted above, each sign is centred over the lane it controls.



This lane must turn left



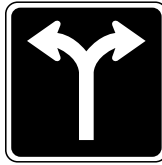
This lane must turn right



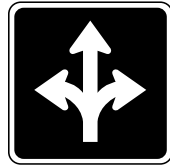
This lane left or through



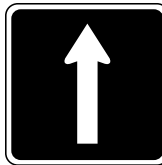
This lane right or through



This lane left or right



This lane all movements



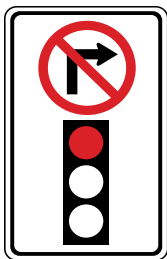
This lane through only



Two-way left turn lane

### Turn Control Signs

These signs may be accompanied by a tab that indicates the sign is only in effect during certain hours of the day.



No right turn on red  
*Wait for green light before making a right turn*



No left turn



Through or Right turn



No right turn



Through or Left turn



Turn left only



Turn right only



Turn right or left



No turns

### 7.4 Warning Signs

Warning signs are yellow and diamond shaped, and use symbols instead of words. They give warning of some condition of the road ahead that calls for special care on the part of the driver.



Two-way traffic ahead



Obstruction  
*Pass to either side*



Stop sign ahead



Divided highway begins  
*Keep to the right*



Divided highway ends



Road surface slippery  
when wet



Traffic signals ahead  
Be prepared to stop



Bump or rough road ahead



Steep hill ahead  
*Shift to lower gear or  
slow down if going down  
very steep hill*



Section of roadway regularly  
crossed by animal depicted



Reverse curve ahead  
Two turns in opposite directions  
separated by a tangent of less  
than 120m, first turn right



Sharp curve  
Maximum advised speed



Concealed or hidden  
intersection ahead  
Road from right and/or left



Underpass ahead  
Overhead clearance as indicated



Winding road ahead  
First curve right



Curve to the right ahead



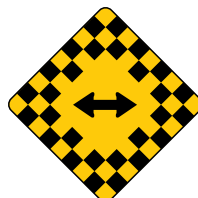
Road narrows  
Road ahead is not as wide as  
the road you are driving on



Narrow bridge ahead  
Width of pavement narrower  
than approach



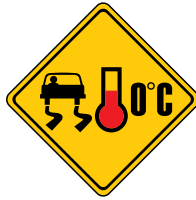
Lane ends  
Right lane ends



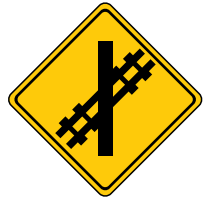
Checkerboard  
Road ends or very sharp turn



Added lane  
Two roads converge  
and merging movements  
are not required



Surface subject to icing  
Bridge or roadway surface may  
be slippery at zero degrees  
Celsius - slow down



Railway ahead  
Road intersects with rail tracks  
ahead at angle depicted



School bus stop ahead  
Stop for bus with flashing lights



Pavement ends  
Continuation has gravel surface



Warns of "T" intersection  
Road turns sharply right  
and left



Two lanes merge ahead  
Traffic entering from right



Snowmobile crossing ahead



Pedestrian crosswalk or  
corridor ahead



Cattle crossing ahead

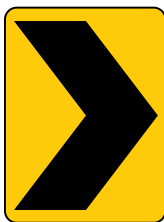


Playground ahead



School crosswalk ahead

## Hazard Markers



Chevron (arrowhead)  
Posted in groups to guide  
drivers around sharp curves  
in the road



Hazard close to  
the edge of the road  
The downward lines show  
the side on which you may  
safely pass



Slow moving vehicle  
Mounted on the rear of vehicles  
that travel at speeds  
less than 40 km/h  
It warns drivers approaching  
from behind to slow down



Warning sign on  
overdimension loads  
or on escort vehicles

## Construction Signs

Construction signs have black letters or symbols on an orange background.



**Construction ahead**  
*This sign indicates you are entering a construction zone  
 Drive with extra caution and be prepared for changes in the speed limit*



**Road work ahead**  
*This sign marks the beginning of an ORANGE ZONE where speed limit is 60 km/h or less when passing highway workers*



**Survey crew ahead**  
*The maximum speed is 60 km/h when passing crews or equipment engaged in work on the highways*



**Traffic control person ahead**  
*Be prepared to stop for instructions*



**Truck entrance left/right**  
*The location at which trucks are entering, leaving or crossing*



**Pavement drop-off**  
*This sign warns motorists that they are on or approaching a section of roadway where either the adjacent lane or shoulder or both are lower or higher than the motorist's travel lane*



**Detour ahead**



### **7.5 Railway Crossings**

The deadliest of all highway collisions is that which occurs between a motor vehicle and a train. Railway / highway crossing collisions should never occur. Public railway/highway crossings are marked with signs, and may also have mechanical or electrical warning devices, for your protection. Learn what they are and watch for them.

#### **Advance Warning Signs**

These signs tell you to look, listen and slow down because you may have to stop. There may be an advisory speed sign erected below the advance warning sign to show that the safe road speed is less than the posted speed.

#### **Pavement Markings**

Pavement markings consist of an "X" and/or stop line that may be painted on the pavement at the approach to some railway/highway crossings.

#### **Railway Crossing Signs**

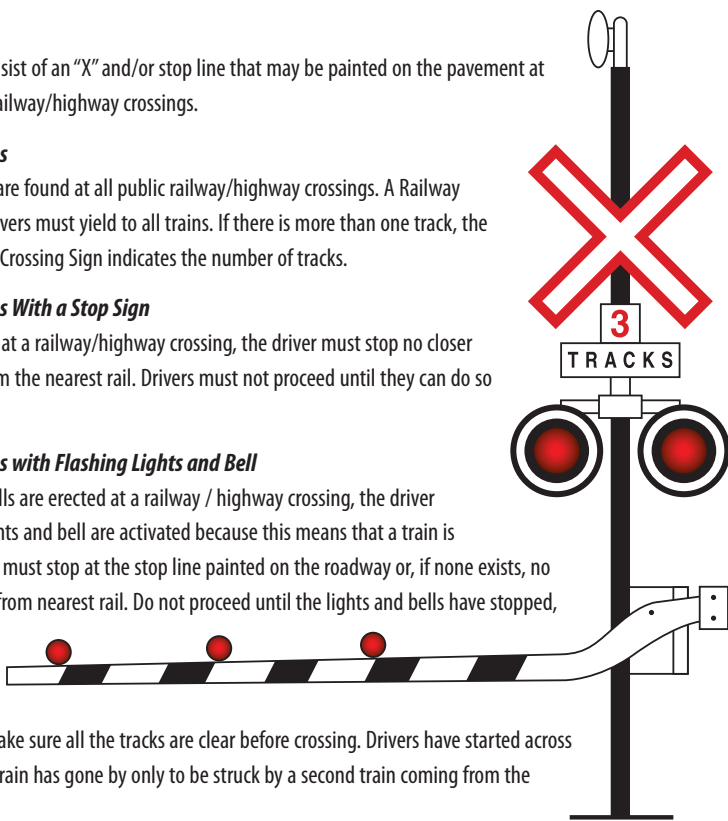
Railway Crossing Signs are found at all public railway/highway crossings. A Railway Crossing Sign means drivers must yield to all trains. If there is more than one track, the sign below the Railway Crossing Sign indicates the number of tracks.

#### **Railway Crossing Signs With a Stop Sign**

If a stop sign is erected at a railway/highway crossing, the driver must stop no closer than five (5) metres from the nearest rail. Drivers must not proceed until they can do so safely.

#### **Railway Crossing Signs with Flashing Lights and Bell**

If flashing lights and bells are erected at a railway / highway crossing, the driver must stop when the lights and bell are activated because this means that a train is approaching. All drivers must stop at the stop line painted on the roadway or, if none exists, no closer than five metres from nearest rail. Do not proceed until the lights and bells have stopped, the train has passed or until you can do so safely. If there is more than one track, make sure all the tracks are clear before crossing. Drivers have started across the tracks right after a train has gone by only to be struck by a second train coming from the opposite direction.



### 7.6 Guide Signs

Guide signs are essential to guide the motorist along established roads, to inform him/her of intersecting roads, and generally to give such information as will help the driver along his/her way in the most simple, direct method possible.



Trans Canada highway



Arterial highway



Hospital



Airport

*Plane points direction to airport*



Collector highway



Local airport



Local highway

### 7.7 Information Signs

These signs are square in shape. They indicate the location of various facilities.



Museum



Accommodations



Gasoline



Food



Picnic facilities



Tourist information



Campground

## 8. WHAT EVERY MOTORCYCLIST MUST KNOW

It is an offence to carry passengers on the handle bars, frame or tank of the motorcycle. It is also an offence to cling to or attach yourself or your vehicle to any other moving vehicle while driving your motorcycle.

---

### 8.1 *Motorcycle Driver's Licence*

If you hold a driver's licence you may not drive a motorcycle on the highway except while taking a driver's examination unless the licence contains an endorsement permitting you to drive a motorcycle. To qualify you must first pass a vision screening, written test, then a road test.

The written exam to obtain a licence consists of ten (10) questions. You must answer eight correctly. As well, you will be required to write basic and sign tests.

---

### 8.2 *Equipment*

1. *Brakes* – Every motorcycle must be equipped with a brake on each wheel.
2. *Headlight* – One and not more than three headlights are required.
3. *Rear Lamp and Brake Light* – Every motorcycle must have a rear lamp and brake light. These may or may not be the same light. Licence plate must be illuminated.
4. *Muffler* – It must have a muffler in good working order.
5. *Handlebars* – Handlebars must be securely fastened and not exceed 30 cm (12 inches) in height as measured vertically from its point of attachment at the frame.
6. *Foot rests* – A motorcycle must have foot rests which may be used in the normal sitting position by an operator or passenger where the motorcycle is equipped for carrying a passenger.

7. *Rear-view Mirror* – It must have a mirror which will give the driver a view of the highway for at least 60 m (200 feet) to the rear.
8. *Horn* – A motorcycle must have a horn in good working order capable of being heard at 60 m (200 feet).
9. *Seat* – Do not carry passengers unless the motorcycle has been so designed.
10. *Goggles* – It is advisable that both drivers and passengers be protected by glasses, goggles or a transparent shield. This shield should be colourless for night driving and should not alter your perception.
11. *Headgear* – You are not allowed by law to operate or ride on a motorcycle unless you are wearing adequate protective headgear of a kind prescribed by Regulation.

Every motorcycle is entitled to the full use of a traffic lane and full parking space.

---

### **8.3 Safe Driving Rules**

Defensive riding is the most important key to safe driving. Expect the unexpected. Be aware of the other motorist at all times and always be prepared for his/her mistakes. Know your motorcycle and your own driving limitations and drive within them. Your skill and your attitude are important factors in defensive driving. While driving, continually assess the condition of the road ahead and behind.

Do not make yourself a hidden target. When stopping at an intersection you should stop behind the last car. Most motorcycle – car collisions take place at intersections. They also take place most frequently during daylight, on weekends, on dry, level roads and during the summer.

Most fatal motorcycle crashes involve collisions with automobiles. In the majority of cases, the car driver did not see the motorcyclist.

Wear clothing of heavy material (leather is recommended) with long sleeves, long pants, heavy boots and gloves when driving or riding as a passenger. For night riding, wear clothing of light colours with reflective material attached.

---

### **8.4 Motorcycle Safety Check**

For safe operation, a motorcycle must be maintained in sound mechanical condition and adjustment. Critical items should be verified daily, while others should be checked regularly.

#### **Daily Safety Inspection**

1. *Tires and Wheels* – tread depth, sidewall condition, inflation, foreign material or objects, rim condition, spoke tension, axle nuts, cotter pins.
2. *Final Drive* – chain or belt adjustment, wheel alignment.
3. *Lubrication System* – oil levels, leaks.
4. *Fuel System* – fuel level, leaks, valve operation.
5. *Cables and Control Clutch* – throttle, choke, brakes.
6. *Electrical System* – battery condition, fluid level, terminals, headlights (lens operation, adjustment, high/low), tail light (lens operation), brake light (front/rear actuation, adjustment), signal lights (lens operation), running lights, horn operation, auxiliary lighting (lens operation), indicator lights operation.
7. *Mirrors* – adjustment, broken.
8. *Legal* – licence plate and decal, registration, insurance.

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### 8.5 Starting

You should develop a routine for starting up the engine to ensure that nothing important is missed. Before you get on, however, both you and the motorcycle should be properly prepared.

Your pre-start routine should include the following steps:

- F** *Fuel* – Does the tank have enough fuel for the trip? Is the fuel valve turned on?
- I** *Ignition* – Is the ignition key turned on?
- N** *Neutral* – Is the transmission in neutral? Roll the motorcycle backwards or forwards about a foot to ensure that it is.
- E** *Engine Cut-Off* – Is the “kill” switch turned to the run position?
- C** *Choke (or Enricher)* – If the engine is cold, is the choke applied?

On some models, you must disengage the clutch. If you can remember the term **FINE-C**, then you should be able to perform the pre-start routine easily and properly.

So that you do not accidentally apply too much throttle, follow this procedure: Grasp throttle with a flat or slightly bent wrist position. Use palm and thumb to control throttle and your fingers to control the front brake. If the wrist is lowered, you will have a hard time to reach the brake.

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### 8.6 Stopping

The front brake (located on the right handlebar) is the most important. Other than at very low speeds (under 10 km/h), always apply both brakes to stop. The front brake provides about 70% of the total braking force under normal road conditions because the weight shifts forward during braking. The rear wheel will lock if you apply too much force to the brake pedal but the front wheel is more difficult to lock. Extensive practise is needed to get the most power out of your brakes, while avoiding skids. Be careful in using your front brake. If you brake too hard, your front wheel may lock.

This is more likely to happen on gravel, dirt or wet surfaces.

- Always be ready to stop. Downshift as you brake so you will have power available if needed. This also allows you to use the engine compression as a brake.
- Use both brakes every time you slow down or stop. If you use only the rear brake for normal stops, you may not have enough skill to use the front brake properly in an emergency.
- It is preferable when stopped in traffic to have transmission in neutral.
- When stopped in traffic and your motorcycle is in gear, keep the rear brake firmly applied. This will prevent the motorcycle from lurching forward should the clutch cable break or your hand slip off the clutch.
- Braking in turns can cause loss of control if road surface is slippery and the brakes are not used properly. If you must, use both brakes more gradually than on straight line braking. Do not lock either brake.
- Never ride the brake partly applied. It turns on your brake lights. This is confusing to other drivers and causes unnecessary wear on your brakes.
- You can stop quicker than most vehicles. Know what is behind you. Check your mirror often. If someone is too close, flash your brake light. Always leave adequate distance between you and the vehicle ahead in case you have to avoid a crash.
- When approaching sand or gravel, slow down and shift to a lower gear.
- When riding on wet or slippery roads, avoid sudden braking or rapid acceleration. Avoid painted or metal surfaces, they may be slippery.

*Keep your feet on the footrests. Remove them only when about to stop.*

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### 8.7 Passengers

Inexperienced drivers should not attempt to carry passengers. Passengers may affect stability and control of the motorcycle, particularly at low speeds. When carrying passengers, instruct them to:

- a) hold tightly to either the driver or handgrips;
- b) keep their feet on the pegs;
- c) lean with the vehicle; and
- d) not touch the muffler or engine.

Do not carry a passenger unless your machine is designed for more than one person.

Remember that you need a greater distance in which to stop when carrying a passenger than you do when driving alone.

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### 8.8 Driving Techniques

#### Turns

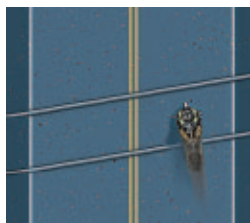
Do your braking and gear shifting well in advance of a turn to slow down. When taking a curve at normal cruising speed, you should lean the motorcycle and your body at the same angle. However, when making a sharp turn at less than 25 km/h, you should lean the motorcycle in the direction of the turn farther than your body. Do not drag your feet on the road surface when turning.

#### Slippery Surface

When driving on a slippery surface: (a) avoid leaning the machine; (b) use the front brake carefully - avoid sudden braking; (c) decrease speed; and (d) do not accelerate suddenly.

#### Railroad Tracks

When railroad tracks cross the highway at an angle, it is not always advisable to cross them head on. It may be safer to cross the tracks at a slight angle.



### 8.9 Defensive Driving

In order to be seen by other drivers you should take into account their field of vision and learn to drive in a position where you can be seen. Do not ride in another vehicle's blind spot.

When riding with other cycles, do not ride two abreast in a single lane on public streets and highways. Stagger your positions so the driver on the left is in front of the machine on the right. This will allow room for both of you to manoeuvre and pass.

The best position in which to see ahead and to be seen by other drivers on a two-way, two-lane street is the left side of the right lane.

Each lane offers you three choices of position: left side, center and right side. There is no one lane position which is best all the time. Evaluate traffic and road conditions constantly and decide what is the best position. There are advantages and disadvantages for each and your choice will always result in compromise.

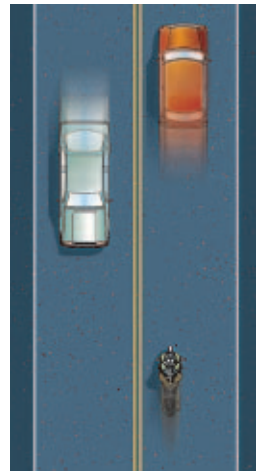
Remember, it is very dangerous to operate a motorcycle between lines of traffic or to pass between curb lane traffic and the curb.

Ride on the right side when using the right lane, when preparing to make a right turn at an intersection. Do not ride on the extreme right of a road because: (a) you may not be seen by a driver waiting to enter the road; (b) cars may crowd in beside you; and (c) you will be too close to parked cars you may have to pass.

**Driving a motorcycle with lights on in daytime helps you to be seen by other drivers.**

### 8.10 Shoulder Checks

When you plan to start, stop or change direction in traffic, there is only one sure way to see a car behind you in the next lane; that is, turn your head and glance over your shoulder at the traffic behind you. Just checking your rearview mirror is not enough.



### 8.11 Following Other Vehicles

You should always leave plenty of space between yourself and vehicles you are following because:

1. Ahead you will be able to see traffic and road conditions more easily.
2. If the road becomes slippery, you may need more room to stop than would a car.
3. If the vehicle ahead should stop suddenly, you can use some of the space ahead to keep a vehicle behind from hitting you.

As you increase speed, allow more space between yourself and the vehicle you are following.

#### Following Distances

Following too close or tailgating is a frequent cause of highway collisions. To drive safely you must leave sufficient space between your vehicle and the vehicle ahead so that you can stop in the event of an emergency.

The *Two-Second Interval* is a good way to learn to recognize safe following distance. Just watch the vehicle ahead of you pass some definite point on the highway, such as a telephone pole. Then count to yourself “one thousand and one, one thousand and two”. That is two seconds. If you pass that same spot before you finish the count, you are following too closely. This holds true at any speed. This rule applies to favourable driving conditions. Unfavourable conditions call for lower speed and a longer count.

Do not use high speed highways unless you can keep up with the flow of traffic. Remember, the following areas are slippery when wet:

1. painted lines and arrows, particularly when newly painted
2. greasy areas in center of lane
3. metal surfaces
4. fallen leaves
5. sand and gravel collected near the road shoulder.

**The highway is likely to be more slippery for the first few minutes after it starts to rain or following light drizzle.**

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## 8.12 Emergencies When Riding

### Avoiding Obstacles

A quick stop may not be enough to keep you from hitting something in your path. Debris or a pothole might appear suddenly; the only way to avoid a collision would be with a quick turn.

- The procedure to making a quick turn is to get the motorcycle to *lean quickly* in the direction you wish to turn.
- To get the motorcycle to lean quickly, counter steer. (Counter-steering means steering one way to send the bike in the opposite direction). If you wish to turn right, push on the right handgrip, this will cause the front wheel to move slightly left. The result is a lean to the right.
- As the motorcycle begins to lean, you now can turn the handlebars in the direction it is leaning to keep from falling over.

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**Do not loan your motorcycle to inexperienced drivers or to someone who does not have a valid motorcycle licence.**

### Riding Over Obstacles

Sometimes you have no choice but to ride over an object in your path. A length of tailpipe, etc. may be seen too late to steer around it. In this type of situation the basic rules to follow are:

- Hold onto the handlebars *tightly*.
- Keep a *straight* course.
- *Stand* slightly on the footpegs.
- Shift weight *back*.
- *Accelerate* slightly as front wheel reaches object.
- *Decelerate* and move weight forward as you go over object.

### Questions on safe driving practices for motorcycle operators

1. *When two lanes of vehicles stop at a traffic signal light, you should:*
  - Stop behind the last car in the lane you are in?
  - Pass all vehicles on the right?
  - Pass all vehicles between the two lanes of cars?
  - Pass all vehicles on the left?
2. *A motorcycle may be parked:*
  - In any parking space provided for a four-wheeled vehicle?
  - On the sidewalk?
  - At a right angle to the curb?
  - Between cars?
  - In any vacant curb space provided the motorcycle is parked parallel to the curb?
3. *When three or more riders are together, the safest way to travel is:*
  - four abreast?
  - three abreast?
  - single file?
  - in a group?

## Sudden Stops

If you have to stop quickly try:

- To keep the bike upright and in a straight line. Apply each brake as hard as you can without locking either wheel. If a wheel locks up and skids, it may slide to one side making the cycle hard to control.
- If you are forced to brake when the front wheel is turned, do it gradually. Give more emphasis to the back brake.

You need practice to know how hard you can brake without locking the wheels and skidding.

- In an emergency situation, draw in the clutch, apply the front brake and push down on the back brake all at the same time. This will help your balance and stop you in the shortest distance.
- Remember if you take your feet off the pegs for balance, only your front brake remains on.

## Wobble

When travelling at high speeds, the front wheel can suddenly start to wobble (shake from side to side). The only thing you can do in this situation is to ride it out.

- Do not brake.
- Grip the handlebars firmly but do not try to stop the wobble.
- Gradually close the throttle and pull off the road as soon as you can.
- Check for unequal tire pressure, bent or misaligned wheels, loose spokes or an improperly mounted windshield.

All of the above are typical causes of unsteadiness.

## Stuck Throttle

If your throttle sticks, the following steps should be applied:

- Immediately squeeze the clutch lever.
- Rotate the throttle back and forth several times.
- If you can not close the throttle, turn off the engine with the emergency kill switch, if you have one; if not, use the ignition key.
- Carefully steer off the road and stop.

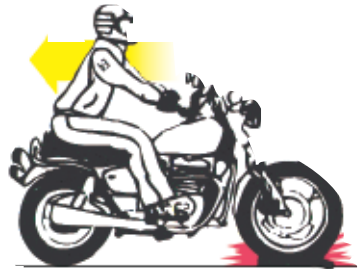
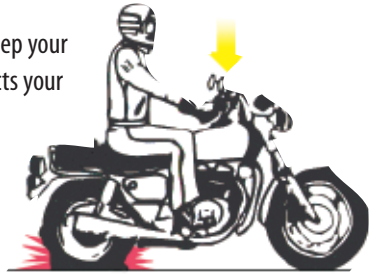
## Blowouts

If you have a blowout, you will need to react quickly to keep your balance. A front wheel blowout is dangerous since it affects your steering.

You cannot always hear a tire blow. You should be able to detect a flat tire from the way the motorcycle reacts. If the front tire goes flat, the steering will feel heavy. If the rear tire goes flat, the back of the motorcycle will tend to slide from side to side.

If the rear tire blows, maintain your position on the machine. Don't brake – **ease** off the throttle instead.

If a front tire blows, hang on firmly and try to steer straight and shift your weight to the rear. When you've slowed enough, move to the right side of the road.



## Skids

Most motorcycle skids are caused by braking too hard – usually the rear wheel.

### To correct skid

*Rear Wheel:* Steer slightly in the direction of the skid, letting up on the brake so the wheel can turn.

*Front Wheel:* Release the front brake immediately.

A rear wheel skid caused by over-acceleration should be corrected by closing the throttle *gradually*. Sudden closing of throttle may worsen the problem.

## 9. ORGAN TRANSPLANTATION AND DONATION

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### 9.1 Transplantation

Advances in medical science now make it possible to replace failing human organs. In fact, replacement of a kidney, cornea, heart or liver is no longer considered an experiment but a treatment choice. Organs and tissues that can be effectively transplanted are kidneys, hearts, lungs, livers, corneas, bones, joints, skin, pancreas, bone marrow and bowel. *Therefore, one person's decision to be an organ donor could benefit as many as 10 people.* However, many Canadians die each year because donor organs are not available.

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### 9.2 Organ Donation

For many patients, transplantation offers the only hope for leading a healthy and productive life, or, in some cases, for life at all. By signing an organ donor card and urging your family and friends to do the same, you could ensure the freedom and quality of life that you enjoy is passed on to someone else.

Your donor card confirms your wish to give the gift of any or all tissues and organs after your death. Although it is important to discuss your feelings about transplantation with your family, friends or doctor, the information on the card may help them with decisions at a difficult time.

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### 9.3 Age

Age is never an absolute barrier to some form of organ donation.

If you are over 19, you may direct that any tissue or organ may be used after your death. For persons under 19 years, your parent or guardian should sign the donor card also. Donor cards are available from The Kidney Foundation or the CNIB.

#### FOR MORE INFORMATION

For more information on transplantation and organ donation, contact:

*NB Organ and Tissue Procurement Program at*  
**(506) 643-6848**

## **10 ADDITIONAL INFORMATION IMPORTANT TO DRIVERS**

### ***10.1 Parking Regulations***

A person is not permitted to stop, stand or park a vehicle except to avoid conflict with other traffic or in compliance with law or the directions of a peace officer or traffic control device, in any of the following places:

- a) on a sidewalk;
- b) in front of a public or private driveway;
- c) within an intersection;
- d) within 5 metres (16 feet) from the point on a curb opposite a fire hydrant;
- e) on a crosswalk;
- f) within 5 metres (16 feet) of a crosswalk at an intersection;
- g) within 10 metres (32 feet) upon the approach to any flashing beacon, stop sign or traffic control signal located at the side of a roadway;
- h) between a safety zone and the adjacent curb or within 10 metres (32 feet) of points on the curb immediately opposite the ends of a safety zone, unless the local authority indicates a different length by signs or markings;
- i) within 15 metres (50 feet) of the nearest rail of a railroad crossing;
- j) within 10 metres (32 feet) of the driveway entrance to any fire station and on the side of a street opposite to any fire station within 25 metres (82 feet) of said entrance;
- k) alongside or opposite any street excavation or obstruction when stopping, standing or parking would obstruct traffic;
- l) on the roadway side of any vehicle stopped or parked at the edge of a curb of a street;
- m) upon any bridge or other elevated structure upon a highway or within a highway tunnel;

- n) at any place where official signs prohibit stopping;
- o) more than 50 centimetres (20 inches) from a curb;
- p) upon a provincial highway so as to interfere with snow ploughing operations.

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### **10.2 Following**

It is illegal for a commercial motor vehicle (other than a police vehicle) or a vehicle towing a trailer or a mobile home to follow another vehicle within 60 metres (200 feet) when travelling upon a highway outside a business or residential district except for the purpose of overtaking and passing.

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### **10.3 Following Fire Vehicles**

It is an offence to follow within 150 metres (500 feet) of any fire apparatus which is answering an alarm. It is also an offence to drive or park within 150 metres (500 feet) of any fire apparatus which has stopped in answer to an alarm. Driving over a fire hose is prohibited unless instructed to do so by a fire department official in charge.

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### **10.4 Riding in the Back Portion of a Vehicle**

No person shall operate a motor vehicle on a highway with a person riding on a portion of the motor vehicle that is not designed or normally used for carrying passengers unless:

- a) the motor vehicle is used in a parade that is approved by an appropriate governmental authority;
- b) the motor vehicle is transporting persons who are working while being transported on the motor vehicle; or
- c) the motor vehicle is transporting persons to or from a worksite.

No person shall ride in or on a trailer or semi-trailer that is being hauled on a highway by a motor vehicle or a farm tractor unless:

- a) the person is taking part in a parade that is approved by an appropriate governmental authority;
- b) the person is being transported to or from a worksite.

No person shall operate a motor vehicle or farm tractor with a person riding in or on a trailer or semi-trailer that is hauled on a highway by the motor vehicle or farm tractor unless:

- a) the trailer or semi-trailer is being used in a parade that is approved by an appropriate governmental authority;
- b) the trailer or semi-trailer is transporting persons who are working while being transported in or on the trailer or semi-trailer; or
- c) the trailer or semi-trailer is transporting persons to or from a worksite.

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### **10.5 Driving Tips**

- Stop driving when you become drowsy. Pull off the highway as soon as it is safe to do so. Drowsiness is one of the greatest dangers in highway driving.
- Avoid distractions while driving, especially on high speed roads. Keep your eyes on the road not on other passengers in the vehicle. Do not drive with animals loose in the car.
- When you leave the highway after a long drive and begin to drive on two-lane highways and/or city streets, you must make a complete adjustment in speed and vision to the changes in driving conditions.

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## **10.6 Fuel Efficient Driving Techniques**

Safety should be your number one concern every time you get behind the wheel of a vehicle. The good news is that practising defensive driving techniques not only improves road safety, it also reduces fuel consumption and cuts exhaust emissions that contribute to climate change and urban smog. Depending on your driving habits and how often you drive, these basic techniques and useful tips could save you hundreds of dollars a year in fuel maintenance costs:

### **How You Drive**

***Don't drive aggressively:*** it is both safer and more fuel-efficient to maintain a steady speed on the road, accelerate smoothly when passing or merging with faster traffic and avoid hard braking. European tests have shown that aggressive driving - frequent rapid acceleration and hard braking - can increase fuel consumption by up to 39 percent.

***Reduce your speed:*** never drive faster than the posted speed limit. Increasing your highway cruising speed from 100 km/h to 120 km/h will increase fuel consumption by up to 20 percent.

***Don't idle:*** if you are going to be stopped for more than 10 seconds, except in traffic, turn off your engine. Idling your vehicle for longer than 10 seconds uses more fuel than it takes to restart your vehicle. For more information visit: [idling.gc.ca](http://idling.gc.ca)

***Plan your trips:*** combine errands and to avoid traffic jams, steep hills, road construction, etc. Combining a number of short trips into one longer one allows your engine and drivetrain to reach peak operating temperature, which is not possible on trips of less than 5 km. Avoiding trouble spots shortens your travel time and reduces unnecessary idling.

**Manual transmission:** if you are driving a vehicle with a manual transmission, learn how to use it properly for maximum fuel savings. A tachometer can help you shift the transmission at the most fuel-efficient engine speeds (the owners' manual will indicate these speeds).

### **Maintaining your vehicle**

**Maintain your vehicle:** follow the vehicle manufacturer's recommended operating procedures and maintenance schedule in your owner's manual. Regular maintenance such as oil and filter changes will not only prevent early degeneration of your vehicle's components, it will also keep them operating at their most fuel-efficient level. A clogged air filter can increase fuel consumption by up to 10 percent. Regular maintenance will keep your vehicle operating safely, save you money and, at the same time, help the environment.

**Check your tires:** measure the pressure of your tires at least once a month when the tires are cold (i.e. the vehicle has been stationary for at least three hours or has not been driven more than 2 km). If you have to drive more than 2 km to add air, check the tires before you leave and then add the amount of air that is missing from this reading. Inflate the tires to the recommended pressure, usually indicated on the car door, glove compartment or in the owner's manual. With proper tire inflation, your car will burn less fuel and be safer to drive. A vehicle with tires that are under inflated by 56 kPa (8 psi) increases fuel consumption by 4 percent. For more information visit: [betiresmart.ca](http://betiresmart.ca)

## Buying a Fuel-Efficient Vehicle

**Find the vehicle that meets your everyday needs:** when buying a vehicle, it's important to find the most fuel-efficient model that meets your everyday needs. If you're shopping for a car or light truck, the Fuel Consumption Guide from Natural Resources Canada (NRCan) is the place to start. This Guide lets you compare vehicle information, including fuel-consumption ratings, estimated annual fuel costs and fuel use, and carbon dioxide emissions.

**Make fuel-efficient choices:** be aware of the effect certain options, such as power seats, large engine size, 4-wheel drive and oversized tires, can have on your fuel efficiency by adding weight and draining power from the engine.

## Fuel-Efficient Features

**Air conditioning:** in summer, minimize your use of air conditioning. Operating an air conditioner in hot weather can increase fuel consumption by more than 20 percent in city driving. A more fuel-efficient option for staying cool is to open a window. However, at highway speeds, use your car's flow-through ventilation - open windows and sunroofs increase aerodynamic drag, which makes the engine work harder and consume more fuel. If you must use your vehicle's air conditioning, avoid running it continuously; shut it off after the interior is cool or set the controls to a comfort level that allows the system to cycle.

**Block heaters:** use a block heater in the winter to warm the engine oil and make cold starts easier on your engine components. Your vehicle's oil does not freeze when the temperature dips below 0° C, but it does get much thicker. This means your engine has to work harder and use more fuel. Use a timer to switch the block heater on two hours before you plan to drive. Proper use of a block heater can improve your vehicle's overall fuel economy by as much as 10 percent. But don't leave your block heater on overnight or your energy savings will disappear in a higher electricity bill.

**Remote car starters:** are handy on cold winter mornings, but don't start your car too soon - in most driving conditions, today's modern engines need to warm-up for only 30 seconds, even on cold mornings. Also, allowing your car to idle too long wastes gas and produces unnecessary exhaust emissions.

**Cruise control:** use it for highway driving to maintain a constant speed, avoid inadvertent speeding and save fuel. The exception is on hilly terrain, where it's a good idea to allow the vehicle's speed to drop slightly going uphill and then let gravity help you build up speed again (to a safe level) going down the other side.

**Remove them when they're not needed:** ski racks, roof racks and heavy items in your trunk also add weight and cause you to burn more fuel.

You will find other useful tips, information and tools at [vehicles.gc.ca](http://vehicles.gc.ca)

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### **10.7 What Motorists Need to Know About Trucks and Their Limitations**

Trucks are not large cars. They are a different species of highway creature. Whether they are accelerating, braking, climbing a hill, switching lanes or turning onto a side street, tractor-trailer trucks must perform certain manoeuvres that drivers of automobiles must understand.

A typical tractor-trailer combination – a power unit pulling a loaded semi-trailer – may weigh up to 49,500 kilograms. Depending on the trailer length – 12.2, 13.7, 14.6 or 16.2 metres – the total length of the combination may exceed 23 metres. On the busiest intercity routes a motorist may encounter double trailer combinations (B-trains) up to 25 metres in length and weighing up to 62,500 kilograms.

These large trucks, at a traffic light, accelerate much slower than the typical late-model automobile. The truck may have to go through nine to eighteen gears – a relatively lengthy process – to reach the speed limit. The truck may have two or three times more power than a car but with 31,750 kilograms or more of trailer and cargo behind it, a truck engine must move 30 to 50 times more weight than does a car engine.

#### **Braking**

Most motorists understand that a semi-trailer will take more time and distance to brake to a stop than a car travelling at the same speed. But how much more? Typically, a passenger sedan travelling 90 kilometres per hour stops in 56 metres while a sleeper-cab tractor with a loaded trailer requires a minimum 60 metres.

As well, it takes almost as long to stop a “bobtail” – a tractor running without its trailer – as it does to stop a loaded tractor-trailer combination. Without the weight of a trailer on its rear wheels, the bobtail comes to a stop only after travelling 56 metres.

When motorists fail to understand the physical forces that act on trucks, the resulting confusion can have serious consequences. Using the example of a bobtail’s braking distance, our “instincts” tell us that a lightly loaded truck should have less momentum and a shorter stopping distance than one carrying a heavy load - and that a bobtail should stop fastest of all. The fatal collision rate for bobtails was more than 13 times higher than that for tractors pulling trailers.

Braking distances are increased by two additional factors: reaction time and brake lag. Reaction time is the number of seconds it takes a driver to recognize a problem and take the appropriate action. The average reaction time of most people is three-quarters of a second. At 90 kilometres per hour, a truck will travel 18 metres before the driver applies the brakes.

Brake lag, the period of time between the application of the foot valve and the time the brakes react to maximum brake efficiency, is more evident in trucks. The hydraulic brakes on automobiles and smaller trucks engage almost immediately. In tractor-trailers, however, the air-brake systems that transmit braking power from the tractor to the trailer are subject to a lag that can add many metres to the stopping distance.

A combination truck travelling at 90 kilometres per hour with a full load under ideal conditions will travel a total of 102 metres before coming to a complete stop. With hot brakes, the distance will be even longer, in excess of 103 metres. A tractor-trailer of any kind takes far longer to stop than does a passenger car and motorists must take this into account while driving.

Braking characteristics are not the only way in which motorists may be confused by a truck’s actions.

Turning characteristics have the same effect. For example, many motorists following a semi-trailer assume that if the truck moves to the left it is preparing to make a left turn.

In fact, tractor-trailer trucks often swing out to the left as the first step in making a right turn. Particularly when making a tight turn at an urban intersection or when pulling off the street into a driveway, the tractor must swing to the left first to prevent the trailer from riding up over the curb or striking vehicles in the parking lane. Unprepared motorists, however, sometimes misinterpret this preliminary swing to the left as the beginning of a left turn that will allow them to pass the truck on the right. When the truck proves to be turning right, the auto is trapped between the truck and the curb in the “right turn squeeze”.

When following a truck, observe its turn signals before trying to pass on the right at an intersection.

### **A Trucker's Blind Spots**

One of the most serious misjudgments motorists make about trucks concerns a trucker's field of vision. Many motorists believe that because a truck driver sits twice as high as the driver of an auto, he can see farther ahead and can react more promptly to events as they develop. True, the trucker has a better view over the top of any cars ahead of him but truckers have serious blind spots motorists do not have – immediately in front, on either side of the cab and up to 60 metres in the rear.

A trucker cannot see over or through another tractor trailer in front of him any better than a motorist can and may have a limited view of the road directly in front of his cab. If he is driving a tractor with a long hood, a trucker may not be able to see the first 6 metres of concrete in front of his bumper – ample space for a car to slip unnoticed into a position of danger. Even on some of the more streamlined tractors with sloped hoods or with no front hood (called cab-overs), there can be a blind spot of up to 3 metres.

The blind spots on the sides and in the rear hamper a trucker's ability to take evasive action to avoid collisions, so motorists must be careful to ensure their vehicle will be seen. An often cited rule of thumb for motorists overtaking a semi-trailer is, if you cannot see the truck driver in his side mirror, he cannot see you.

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### **10.8 Your Road Driving Test**

The road driving test is an important part of your driver licence examination.

No tricks are played and you will not be asked to do anything unlawful but you will be expected to obey all traffic laws. In addition, you will be expected to give all signals required by law - either by hand and arm or approved mechanical indicators.

The vehicle in which you take the test must be in good mechanical condition. Defective equipment or improper registration plates will result in a delay of the driving test until legal requirements are met. If the test is delayed, you must arrange for a new driving test.

If you have an instructional licence, you must be accompanied to the Examining Station by a licensed driver. If you are presently unlicensed, then a licensed driver must drive your vehicle to the Examining Station.

Applicants for a Class 4 licence will be road tested in the type of vehicle they intend driving. The medical fitness report will be identified as being either for an *ambulance, taxi or small bus*. The road test will then be taken only in that type of vehicle.

Applicants for all other classes (Classes 1, 2, 3, 5, 6 and 9) will be road tested in the type of vehicle covered by those classes.

The driving test is not difficult. Remember that thousands of drivers have been successful on tests and are now licensed to drive. They can do it, so can you. Being relaxed and doing the best you can will help both yourself and the Driver Examiner.

After you pass your driving test and receive your driver's licence, continue to drive in the safe manner you demonstrated during the test. You will have received the driving privilege with the understanding that you will obey all traffic laws and safe driving practices. The Motor Vehicle Branch keeps a record of all reported traffic violations and collisions. The driving privilege may be withdrawn if drivers are convicted of traffic offences or contribute to traffic collisions. Protect your driving privilege.

The Department of Public Safety extends best wishes for safe and pleasant driving.

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### **10.9 A Note of Encouragement**

You do not have to worry about taking the road test. The Driver Examiner is there to help you.

Examiners will be courteous and polite and you should not feel intimidated. Talk with the Driver Examiner before the road test and get to know him or her.

Driver Examiners do understand that you are nervous. You must learn to relax both for the test and in regular driving. Please ask any questions before proceeding with the road test.

Good luck on your test and please drive carefully!

*Susan McCracken  
Chief Driver Examiner  
Deputy Registrar of Motor Vehicles*

### **10.10 Consent Form**

The Consent Form must be signed by a parent or a legally appointed guardian who has legal custody of applicant.

**NOTE: Authorizing signature must ensure that the consent form is properly completed and witnessed by a non-relative**

*\* This consent form may be removed from this handbook for use.*





## CONSENT FORM • FORMULE DE CONSENTEMENT



**To: The Registrar of Motor Vehicles**

**Au : Registraire des véhicules à moteur**

Consent is hereby given for the issuance of a licence to operate a Motor Vehicle to:

*Je consens, par les présentes, à ce qu'un permis de conduire d'un véhicule à moteur soit délivré à :*

who was born on  
*qui est né(e) le*

Day	Month	Year
<i>Jour</i>	<i>Mois</i>	<i>Année</i>

I am the

*Je suis le (la)*

Father

☐

*Père*

Mother

☐

*Mère*

Guardian

☐

*Tuteur(trice)*

of the applicant named above.

*du demandeur nommé ci-dessus.*

Non-Related Witness

*Témoin non-parent*

Date

Signature of Parent or Guardian

*Signature du parent ou du tuteur*