

Heavy Vehicle BLIND SPOTS

BE VIGILANT!



WHAT IS A BLIND SPOT?

Around any vehicle, **certain areas cannot be seen by the driver in the rear-view mirrors or through the windows**: these are called blind spots. In general, the taller and longer the vehicle, the bigger the blind spots.

Main heavy vehicle blind spots¹

1 Front

The longer the hood, the bigger the area of the blind spot. A small car could even fit in this spot undetected.

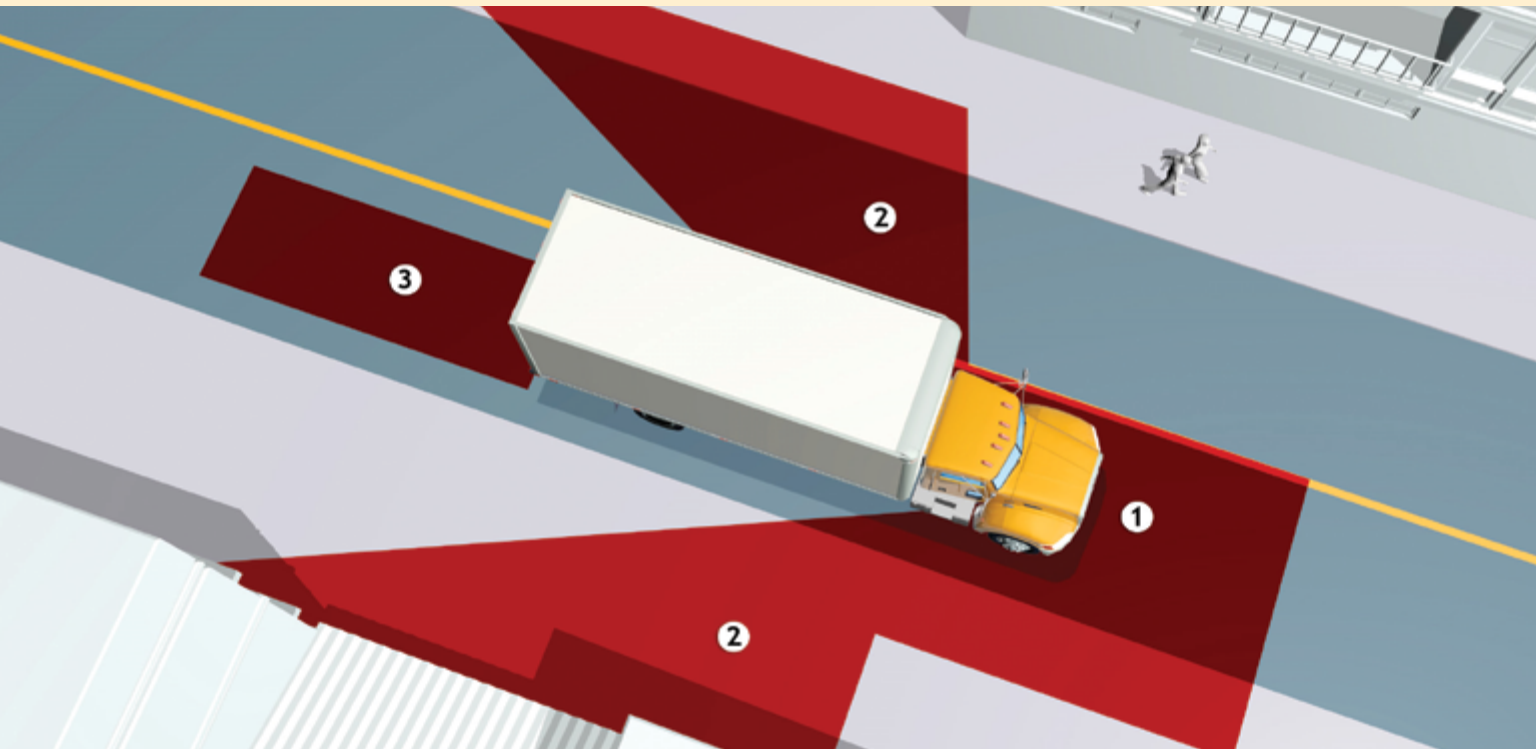
3 Rear

Because the rear blind spot is very long, be especially careful when a heavy vehicle is backing up.

2 Sides

Since visibility on the sides is limited by blind spots, the driver **has only the side mirrors to rely on**.

If you cannot see the driver's eyes in a rear-view mirror or through a window, the driver cannot see you. Be vigilant and try, as much as possible, to move further away from the vehicle.



1. The illustration of blind spots has been simplified for better comprehension. There are other blind spots, such as those caused by side mirrors and pillars on either side of the windshield. In addition, other types of heavy vehicles (city buses, motor coaches, tool vehicles, etc.) also have blind spots, but their outline and size are different.

RISKS AT INTERSECTIONS

Urban intersections are the most hazardous, because this is where the majority of accidents involving heavy vehicles and pedestrians or cyclists occur. The front and right side blind spots are particularly problematic.

Crossing in front of a heavy vehicle



Example of pedestrians who believe that they have been seen and who are crossing the street at the same time that the vehicle starts moving again.

Crossing when a heavy vehicle is turning right



Example of a cyclist who believes that he or she has been seen and who is continuing ahead at the same time that the vehicle is turning right.

IF YOU DRIVE A HEAVY VEHICLE

Anticipate and keep an eye out

When you are driving, be mindful of people around your vehicle, especially at urban intersections.

- Watch and anticipate the movements of cyclists and pedestrians crossing in front of your vehicle.
- Do not assume that others can predict your manoeuvres.
- Make sure your rear-view mirrors are clear, in good condition and properly adjusted.
- Keep your headlights on at all times (to better see and be seen). Be vigilant at night and in poor weather conditions.
- Use your turn signal lights to indicate your intention to turn or change lanes.
- Be vigilant when turning at an intersection, especially if you must encroach upon the adjacent lane or shoulder when turning right.
- When sharing the road with a cyclist, slow your vehicle and maintain the prescribed distance between your vehicle and the cyclist:
 - 1 metre in zones of 50 km/h or less;
 - 1.5 metres in zones of more than 50 km/h.

IF YOU FIND YOURSELF NEAR A HEAVY VEHICLE

Make sure you are seen: a rule that can save your life

When you are near a heavy vehicle, always make eye contact with the driver. Otherwise, assume the driver cannot see you.

- Avoid placing yourself in a heavy vehicle's blind spots.
- Make sure that the driver has seen you before crossing in front of a heavy vehicle. When in doubt, let the heavy vehicle go by.
- Pay attention to the turn signal lights of heavy vehicles at intersections.
- Be visible (wear brightly coloured clothing or reflective strips, for example).
- If you are trying to make your presence known, keep in mind that the driver cannot hear you.
- Walk on the sidewalk, or, if there isn't one, on the side of the road, facing traffic.

If you are a cyclist:

- Never pass on the right near an intersection.
- Be cautious at intersections. Come to a stop well ahead or well behind a heavy vehicle, but never beside it.
- If a heavy vehicle passes you, anticipate the effects of turbulence—the gust of wind that follows. At high speeds, it can be enough to make you lose your balance.

Original text in French

To find out more, go to the SAAQ website at
saaq.gouv.qc.ca/blindspots

**Société de l'assurance
automobile**

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