

INFORMATION BULLETIN

Vol. 13, No 2, December 2010

AMENDMENTS TO THE DEFINITION OF A "HEAVY VEHICLE"

HEAVY VEHICLE OWNERS AND OPERATORS (HVOOS) REGISTERED IN THE REGISTER OF HVOOS WITH THE COMMISSION DES TRANSPORTS DU QUÉBEC BEFORE JANUARY 1, 2011

Amendments to the definition of a "heavy vehicle" in the *Act respecting owners, operators and drivers of heavy vehicles* come into effect on January 1, 2011. As of that date, any road vehicle or combination of road vehicles with a gross vehicle weight rating (GVWR)¹ of 4,500 kg or more will be considered to be a heavy vehicle².

If you are a heavy vehicle owner or operator already registered in the Register with the Commission des transports du Québec (the Commission), the amendments to the definition could affect your heavy vehicle fleet, since some of them will no longer be covered³, while others will become covered. These amendments may also have an effect on your conduct record.

ADJUSTMENT TO YOUR HEAVY VEHICLE FLEET

On January 1, 2011, the Société de l'assurance automobile du Québec (SAAQ) will automatically adjust your heavy vehicle fleet if you are an "owner" (motor vehicles, trailers and semi-trailers registered in Québec under your name) using vehicle registration files.

If you are also an operator, your "operator" fleet will temporarily remain the one indicated on your record as of December 31, 2010. The SAAQ will adjust your record when you carry out the annual update to your registration in the Commission's register,

which should include, if applicable, the declaration of your new "operator" fleet.

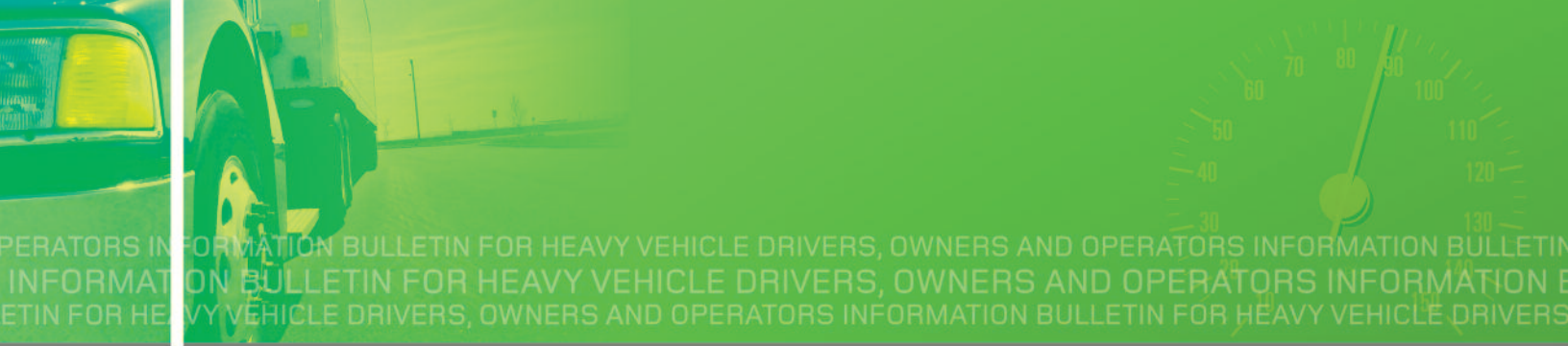
However, you can apply for a review of your "operator" fleet at the Service aux propriétaires, exploitants et conducteurs de véhicules lourds at the SAAQ, if you have reached 75% or more of the threshold in any of the "operator" conduct areas in the ongoing conduct review.

1 The GVWR is the vehicle weight, including its maximum load capacity, according to the manufacturer's specifications.

2 Buses, minibuses, tow trucks and vehicles transporting dangerous goods are always considered to be heavy vehicles, regardless of their GVWR. The amendments do not have any impact on these categories of vehicles.

3 In this bulletin, a "heavy vehicle" is a vehicle that meets the criteria of the new definition of a "heavy vehicle" and that is not exempted under *Regulation respecting the Act respecting owners, operators and drivers of heavy vehicles*





EVENTS ON YOUR RECORD

As of January 1, 2011, under the *Act respecting owners, operators and drivers of heavy vehicles*, events (offences, accidents and "driver" or "vehicle" out-of-service orders) involving a heavy vehicle covered following the amendments will be entered in your record and taken into consideration when assessing your conduct.

Events that occurred before January 1, 2011 involving a vehicle no longer considered to be a heavy vehicle will remain on your record and taken into consideration in assessing your conduct, until the end of two-year period covered by the Conduct Review Policy⁴.

For example, an offence committed on July 1, 2009 with a heavy vehicle no longer covered as of January 1, 2011 will remain on your record until June 30, 2011.

Another example: if a critical offence related to a heavy vehicle that is no longer covered as of January 1, 2011 was entered on your record in July 2010, and on March 30, 2011, you reach 75% of one of the ongoing review thresholds, the SAAQ will notify you that your record is being referred to the Commission.

REVIEW OF YOUR CONDUCT

The number of "vehicle" out-of-service orders or the number of mechanical inspections required to determine a rate of "owner" out-of-service orders for the "Vehicle Safety" conduct area will be adjusted on the basis of your new "owner" heavy vehicle fleet as determined as of January 1, 2011.

The "operator" conduct area thresholds will temporarily remain those already indicated on your record, until you carry out your annual update of your registration in the Commission's Register during 2011.

IF YOU WANT ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Consult the following documents in the "Heavy Vehicles" section of the SAAQ Web site (www.saaq.gouv.qc.ca):

Conduct Review Policy for Heavy Vehicle Owners and Operators;



Obligations of Heavy Vehicle Users;



Heavy Vehicle Driver Conduct Review Policy and Excellence Program.



You can also contact the SAAQ by telephone at the following toll-free number: **1 800 554-4814**.

To find out more about the amendments to the definition of a "heavy vehicle", go to the Web site of the Ministère des Transports du Québec (www.mtq.gouv.qc.ca), under the headings **Companies > Trucking > New definition of a heavy vehicle**.

You can also call the following numbers:

- **511** (in Québec)
- **1 888 355-0511** (elsewhere in North America)

⁴ This situation is similar to that of a heavy vehicle owner who sells some heavy vehicles or that of a heavy vehicle operator who stops operating some heavy vehicles. Events involving vehicles that were sold or no longer operated stay on record until the end of the two-year period covered by the Conduct Review Policy under the Act.

