

# INFORMATION BULLETIN

Vol. 15, No 2, June 2012

## NEW MEASURES REGARDING ALCOHOL

Provisions of the *Act to Amend the Highway Safety Code (HSC) and other legislative provisions* (Bill 71) which specifically affect heavy vehicle users came into effect on **June 30, 2012**.

### DEFINITION OF HEAVY VEHICLE

Within the meaning of the *Act Respecting Owners, Operators and Drivers of Heavy Vehicles*, **heavy vehicles** are:

- road vehicles, or combinations of road vehicles, within the meaning of the HSC, whose gross vehicle weight rating (GVWR<sup>1</sup>) is 4,500 kg or more;
- buses, minibuses and tow trucks, within the meaning of the HSC, regardless of their weight;
- vehicles transporting dangerous substances, regardless of their weight.

### BUSES, MINIBUSES AND TAXIS: ZERO ALCOHOL

As of June 30 2012, the zero alcohol rule applies to **any person** who drives or has the care or control of a minibus, bus or taxi (section 202.2.1.1 of the HSC).

**Regardless of how the vehicle is used**, if you drive a bus, minibus or taxi, you are covered by this prohibition.

### OTHER HEAVY VEHICLES: 0.05

As of June 30, 2012, **any person** whose blood-alcohol level is 50 mg of alcohol or more per 100 ml of blood (0.05) will also be prohibited from driving or having the care or control of a heavy vehicle other than a bus or a minibus (section 202.2.1.2 of the HSC).

**Regardless of how the vehicle is used**, if you drive a heavy vehicle other than a bus or a minibus, you are covered by this prohibition.

### Heavy vehicles exempted from the 0.05 rule

- Combinations of road vehicles, consisting of a passenger vehicle towing a camping trailer or tent-trailer;
- Motor homes;
- Vehicles having a GVWR under 4,500 kg and transporting dangerous substances, if they do not require the display of safety marks.

<sup>1</sup> The GVWR indicates the vehicle weight, including its maximum load capacity, according to the manufacturer's specifications. GVWR = net mass + maximum load capacity.

C-4923-7-A(12-06)



OPERATORS INFORMATION BULLETIN FOR HEAVY VEHICLE DRIVERS, OWNERS AND OPERATORS INFORMATION BULLETIN FOR HEAVY VEHICLE DRIVERS, OWNERS AND OPERATORS INFORMATION BULLETIN FOR HEAVY VEHICLE DRIVERS, OWNERS AND OPERATORS INFORMATION BULLETIN FOR HEAVY VEHICLE DRIVERS, OWNERS AND OPERATORS INFORMATION BULLETIN FOR HEAVY VEHICLE DRIVERS

## PENALTIES PROVIDED UNDER THE HSC

### Buses, minibuses and taxis

Any person who drives or has the care or control of a bus, minibus or taxi with alcohol in their system will have their **driver's licence immediately suspended for a period of 24 hours**. It should be noted that this suspension only applies to buses, minibuses and taxis.

### Heavy vehicles (other than buses and minibuses)

Any person who drives or has the care or control of a heavy vehicle other than a bus or minibus with a blood-alcohol level of 0.05 or more will have their **driver's licence immediately suspended for a period of 24 hours**. It should be noted that this suspension only applies to heavy vehicles other than buses and minibuses.

Please note that a peace officer may take possession of and impound the heavy vehicle if it is occupying a part of the road in an illegal or potentially dangerous manner, without prior authorization from the operator (section 202.6 of the HSC).

## CONDUCT REVIEW OF HEAVY VEHICLE DRIVERS

### Conduct Review Policy

The record of a heavy vehicle driver who violates either of these new prohibitions **while on duty** will automatically be referred to the Commission des transports du Québec.

### Excellence Program

Furthermore, drivers who violate either of these new prohibitions **will not be eligible for the Excellence Program**, even if the event occurs while they are off-duty.

## CONDUCT REVIEW OF HEAVY VEHICLE OPERATORS



These new provisions of the HSC are also taken into consideration in the conduct review of operators.

For more details, consult the combination of events table on pages 35 and 36 of the **Conduct**

### Review Policy for Heavy Vehicle Owners and Operators.

This table was also published in the **information bulletin about the coming into force of the zero alcohol rule for all drivers age 21 or younger** (April 2012).

## OTHER PROVISIONS IN CONNECTION WITH BILL 71

For more details on other provisions in connection with Bill 71, go to the **Web site of the Société de l'assurance automobile du Québec**.

