

HEAVY VEHICLE DRIVERS, O OWNERS AND OPERATORS

Vol. 15, No 1, April 2012

ZERO ALCOHOL FOR DRIVERS AGE 21 OR YOUNGER



GENERAL INFORMATION

As provided under the Act to amend the Highway Safety Code and other legislative provisions (Bill 71), the zero alcohol rule will apply to all driver's licence holders age 21 or younger, regardless of the class of licence they hold or the type of vehicle they drive, as of April 15, 2012.

Thus, the licences of drivers age 21 or younger who drive or have the care or control of a road vehicle with alcohol in their system will have their licence immediately suspended for a period of 90 days (even where their bloodalcohol level does not exceed the legal limit of 80 mg of alcohol per 100 ml of blood).

If they are subsequently convicted:

- four demerit points will be entered on their driving record;
- they will be required to pay a fine of \$300 to \$600 (plus costs).

In December 2011, the Société de l'assurance automobile du Québec (SAAQ) informed representatives from the transportation industry that the Conduct Review Policy for Heavy Vehicle Owners and Operators as well as the Conduct Review Policy and Excellence Program for Heavy Vehicle Drivers would be adjusted to take this new measure into account.

MEASURES PROVIDED UNDER THE CONDUCT REVIEW POLICY AND EXCELLENCE PROGRAM FOR HEAVY VEHICLE DRIVERS



CONDUCT REVIEW POLICY

Heavy vehicle drivers age 21 or younger are subject to the penalties listed above as well as to the rules detailed in the Conduct Review Policy for Heavy Vehicle Drivers.

As of April 15, 2012, drivers age 21 or younger who drove or had the care or control of a heavy vehicle with alcohol in their system will receive a notice of referral to the Commission des transports after the SAAQ has been noticed that such an offence has been committed.

• drive or have the care or control of a Under the *Highway Safety Code*, a driver Under the Policy, this measure already applies where drivers commit heavy vehicle with a bloodalcohol whose driver's licence or class authorian alcoholimpaired driving offence, level over 80 mg per 100 ml of blood; zing the driving of a heavy vehicle has that is, when drivers: been modified, suspended or cancelled • refuse to obey the order of a peace must without delay inform the operator, officer, in particular to submit to • hold a learner's or probationary the owner and, where applicable, any licence and drive or have the care a physical coordination test or to person determined by regulation in the or control of a heavy vehicle with provide a breath, blood or other manner prescribed therein. Failure to alcohol in their system; sample. comply with this provision is subject to a \$350 to \$1,050 fine (section 519.7).

EXCELLENCE PROGRAM

Implemented by the SAAQ along with the *Conduct Review Policy for Heavy Vehicle Drivers*, the Excellence Program recognizes the exemplary behaviour of heavy vehicle drivers in terms of road safety.

To be admitted into the Program and to remain on the excellence list, heavy vehicle drivers must meet certain requirements.

More specifically, they must not:

- have committed any offences while driving a heavy vehicle;
- have accumulated more than 3 demerit points in their record (for any type of vehicle) per 24 month period

Drivers age 21 or younger who drive or have the care or control a road vehicle with alcohol in their system do not qualify for the Excellence Program, even where the offence was committed while driving a vehicle other than a heavy vehicle.





MEASURES PROVIDED UNDER THE CONDUCT REVIEW POLICY FOR HEAVY VEHICLE OWNERS AND OPERATORS

Offences committed by drivers age 21 or younger who drove or had the care or control of a heavy vehicle with alcohol in their system will also be entered in the record of the operator who employed them as soon as the SAAQ is notified of the offence.

This offence is considered a critical event related to alcoholimpaired driving and will remain in the operator's record for two years. The offence will be added to the combination of events that can lead to the referral of the operator's record to the Commission des transports.

