**INTRODUCTION**
Sharing the road means that all users have to exercise courtesy and mutual respect. Whether we are pedestrians, cyclists, passengers or drivers, we need to be informed about standards for using the road network and our duty to comply with those standards.

[Addition]
Generally speaking, all road users must be careful and considerate when travelling on a public highway, especially toward more vulnerable users. Vulnerable users, for their part, have a duty to adopt behaviours that enhance their own safety.

---

### Getting a learner’s licence

[...]

- You must be accompanied at all times by an authorized person in the front passenger seat;
- Your licence will be revoked and suspended for three months if you accumulate four or more demerit points in your driving record;
- You are prohibited from driving after consuming any alcohol (zero alcohol rule).

### Getting a learner’s licence

[...]  
- You must be accompanied at all times by an authorized person in the front passenger seat who is able to provide you with assistance and advice;
- Prohibition from driving:
  - between midnight and 5 a.m.;
  - after consuming alcohol or drugs;
- If you accumulate four or more demerit points in your driving record, your licence will be revoked and you must wait three months before you are eligible to obtain a new one.

### Carrying passengers

**Probationary licence holders aged 19 or under may only carry a limited number of passengers who are also aged 19 or under between midnight and 5 a.m.**

- Drivers with 6 months or less of driving experience can carry only one passenger;
- Drivers with between 6 and 12 months of driving experience can carry up to 3 passengers.

The driver’s immediate family members, however, are excluded from the passenger count, including:

- the driver’s spouse (married, civil union or de facto spouse);
- the driver’s or the spouse’s children;
- the driver’s brothers and sisters;
- children of the driver’s mother or father or of their spouses.

These restrictions do not apply if:
### DRIVER’S HANDBOOK - Mesures CSR

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pages</th>
<th>Anciens textes</th>
<th>Nouveaux textes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td>Obtaining a Class 6R learner’s licence to drive a motorcycle only during a driving course or an SAAQ test:</td>
<td>Obtaining a Class 6A learner’s licence to drive a motorcycle with an accompanying rider on another motorcycle, provided that the learner complies with the curfew prohibiting the operation of a motorcycle between midnight and 5 a.m.:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32</td>
<td>• If you do not have a Class 5 driver’s licence, hold a probationary licence for 24 months (during this period, the zero alcohol and 4 demerit points rules apply).</td>
<td>• If you do not have a Class 5 driver’s licence, hold a probationary licence for 24 months (during this period, the zero tolerance (alcohol or drugs) and 4 demerit points rules apply).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>44</td>
<td>• a conviction for an offence under the Criminal Code related to driving a road vehicle</td>
<td>• an arrest for an offence related to alcohol- or drug-impaired driving;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>46</td>
<td>The seizure and impoundment can be for 90 days if you have had, during the 10 previous years, a prohibition from acquiring, registering, renting or leasing, or putting into operation a road vehicle because of an offence for alcohol-impaired driving.</td>
<td>The seizure and impoundment can be for 90 days if you have had, during the 10 previous years, a prohibition from acquiring, registering, renting or leasing, or putting into operation a road vehicle because of an offence for alcohol- or drug-impaired driving.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

### Electronic devices

Drivers are prohibited from using an electronic device while operating a vehicle. From the moment a driver holds an electronic device in his or her hands or in any other way, he or she is presumed to be using the device. The law applies to all devices, whether or not they are activated, such as:
- cell phones;
- MP3 players or portable multimedia players;
- portable satellite radios;
- electronic tablets;
- screens that display information that is not of use when driving;
- devices that display emails and make it possible to browse the Internet.

While the hands-free operation of an electronic device is permitted, it is not a safer option and not advisable, as the simple act of talking on a telephone is a distraction.

---

### Cell phones

Since April 1, 2008, use of any type of hand-held device with a telephone function has been prohibited while driving. The law bars use of any type of device with a telephone function that can connect to a telephone network, whether or not it has been activated, such as:
- conventional cell phones;
- mobile devices (BlackBerry);
- cell phones with a transmitter-receiver function (walkie-talkie), such as the TELUS Mike or cell phones that are linked to the 10-4 service provided by BELL. This type of device is prohibited, even if the cell phone function has been deactivated;
- devices that display emails or that enable a user to browse the Internet (e.g. smartphones).

Simply holding this type of device in your hand while driving, regardless of use, is an offence. A "hand-held device" means one where the entire device is held in the hand to use it.

#### Meaning of the expression “while driving”

If you bring your vehicle to a stop for road signs, traffic signals or traffic obstructions, you are still considered to be driving. You are considered to be controlling a vehicle so as to comply with road
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pages</th>
<th>Anciens textes</th>
<th>Nouveaux textes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
|       | signs and traffic signals or to avoid traffic obstructions. Therefore, if you are waiting at a red light or in a traffic jam, you are considered to be driving a vehicle and therefore cannot use a handheld cell phone. However, if you bring your vehicle to a safe and legal stop at the side of the road to use a cell phone, you are no longer considered to be driving, even if the vehicle’s engine is running. | **Meaning of the expression “while driving”**  
If you bring your vehicle to a stop for road signs, traffic signals or traffic obstructions, you are still considered to be driving. You are considered to be controlling a vehicle so as to comply with road signs and traffic signals or to avoid traffic obstructions. Therefore, if you are waiting at a red light or are in a traffic jam, you are considered to be driving a vehicle and therefore cannot use an electronic device. However, if you bring your vehicle to a safe and legal stop at the side of the road to use an electronic device, you are no longer considered to be driving, even if the vehicle’s engine is running. |
| 73   | **Safety tips**  
As a motorist, you are responsible for driving safely. You should therefore keep the following safety rules in mind:  
- Turn off your phone before setting off and let your voice mail take all messages.  
- If you absolutely have to use your phone, pull off the road to a place where parking is allowed and it is safe for you and other road users. For example:  
  - the side of a road where the speed limit is 70 km/h or less;  
  - a parking lot;  
  - a service area.  
- Remember that except in an emergency, no one is allowed to bring a vehicle to a stop on the shoulder of a highway or on highway access and exit ramps;  
- You could also ask a passenger in your vehicle to answer or make a call for you. | **Safety tips**  
As a motorist, you are responsible for driving safely. You should therefore keep the following safety tips in mind:  
- Turn off your electronic device before leaving and let your voice mail take all messages.  
- If you absolutely have to use your electronic device, pull off the road to a place where parking is allowed and it is safe for you and other road users. For example:  
  - the side of a road where the speed limit is 70 km/h or less;  
  - a parking lot;  
  - a service area.  
- Remember that, except in an emergency, no one is allowed to bring a vehicle to a stop on the shoulder of a highway or on highway access and exit ramps.  
- You could also ask a passenger to handle the device or make a call for you.  

**Legal consequences**  
**First offence**  
- Five demerit points added to the offender’s driving record;  
- $300 to $600 fine.  
**Repeat offence**  
For a repeat offence, in addition to another five demerit points, the minimum fine doubles to $600 and the offender’s driver’s licence is immediately suspended as follows:  
- First repeat offence*: 3 days |
### Your mind-set

However, some situations are more likely to lead to conflicts between drivers, for example, city rush hours or getting on and off highways. People react in a wide variety of ways to traffic jams. To avoid making a bad situation worse, you need to moderate your behaviour and anticipate possible danger.

Moreover, in order to avoid dangerous situations, the *Highway Safety Code* specifies that all road users must be careful and considerate when travelling on a public highway, especially toward more vulnerable users. Accordingly, cyclists must protect pedestrians by adopting safe practices when riding. Drivers must protect more vulnerable users (motorcyclists, cyclists, pedestrians, etc.) by exhibiting extra care in their presence. Vulnerable users, for their part, have a duty to adopt behaviours that enhance their own safety.

### Motorcycles, mopeds and motorized scooters

Motorcycles, mopeds and scooters must be equipped with at least one white headlight, one red tail light, two white or yellow turn-signal lights at the front, two red or yellow turn-signal lights at the rear and one red brake light at the rear.

In addition, motorcycles must have two yellow reflectors at the front and two red reflectors at the rear (one on each side).

### Screens

Use of certain screens in a road vehicle is authorized if you can see the information displayed from the driver’s seat and the conditions for installation and use are compliant. Authorized screens must be installed by the vehicle manufacturer or display only information used for driving, or be used as part of certain professional activities.

Use of certain screens in a road vehicle is authorized if you can see the information displayed from the driver’s seat and the conditions for installation and use are compliant.

### Winter tires

Under the *Highway Safety Code*, from [December 15](#) to March 15, all taxis and passenger vehicles registered in Québec must be equipped with winter tires. This requirement also applies to rental passenger vehicles in Québec.

Under the *Highway Safety Code*, from [December 1](#) to March 15, all taxis and passenger vehicles registered in Québec must be equipped with winter tires. This requirement also applies to rental passenger vehicles in Québec.

Before leaving, drivers must clear snow and/or ice from the windows, roof and hood of their vehicle. Drivers must also make sure that nothing can come loose and separate from their vehicle (snow, ice, etc.) while driving. It is not only common sense, it is mandatory!
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pages</th>
<th>Anciens textes</th>
<th>Nouveaux textes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>107</td>
<td><strong>Headrests</strong></td>
<td><strong>Headrests</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>If your vehicle is equipped with a headrest by the manufacturer, is the headrest still installed and in good condition? Is the middle of the headrest at eye level or level with the top of your ears? Is it near your head, i.e. no further away than 10 cm?</td>
<td>If your vehicle is equipped with a manufacturer-installed headrest, is it still in place and in good condition? Is the middle of the headrest at eye level or level with the top of your ears? Is it near your head, i.e. no further away than seven centimetres?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>144</td>
<td><strong>Crossing signs</strong></td>
<td><strong>Crossing signs</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
|       | Crossing signs indicate designated areas where pedestrians may cross on a public roadway. Motorists must be very cautious and ready to stop. When a pedestrian steps into a crosswalk, motorists and cyclists must stop to allow the person to cross safely. | Indicate designated areas where pedestrians can cross. Motorists must be vigilant and be prepared to stop as soon as a pedestrian enters a crosswalk or signals his or her intention to cross by:  
- walking toward the pedestrian crosswalk;  
- waiting to cross;  
- making eye contact;  
- gesturing with his or her hand.  
The motorist must come to a stop to allow the pedestrian to cross safely. |
| 168   | **Beginning of a school zone** | **Beginning of a school zone** |
|       | Presence of a school zone, that is, a road segment adjacent to the premises of an elementary or secondary school. The speed limit is 50 km/h from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. from Monday to Friday, September to June. If the municipality prescribes a limit below 50 km/h in a school zone, a speed limit sign accompanies this sign and indicates the speed limit, times, days and months the limit is in effect. A sign posting the speed limit outside of the school zone indicates the end of the school zone. | Presence of a school zone, that is, a road segment adjacent to the premises of an elementary or secondary school. Between September and June, the maximum speed limit in school zones is 50 km/h. This is in effect from Monday to Friday, between 7 a.m. and 5 p.m. If the municipality prescribes a limit below 50 km/h in a school zone, a speed limit sign accompanies this sign and indicates the speed limit, times, days and months the limit is in effect. A sign posting the speed limit outside of the school zone indicates the end of the school zone. |
| 177   | **Speed limit** | **Moreover, the amount of the fine is doubled for any speeding offence committed in a road construction zone indicated by signs and signals.** |
|       | Orange speed limit signs indicate the maximum speed permitted near a work site. Unlike yellow signs, which indicate the recommended speed, orange signs have the same force of law as the equivalent white sign. [Ajout] | |
| 209   | Cyclists are allowed to ride on most roads in Québec other than highways; drivers and truckers must therefore exercise caution when they see a cyclist on the far right-hand side of the road. | Cyclists can ride on the majority of roads in Québec, with the exception of highways. Drivers must therefore exercise caution when they see cyclists on the side of the road. |
| 221   | All occupants, except children whose sitting height is less than 63 cm, as explained further on, sitting on the front or back seat of a moving motor vehicle must wear the seat belt provided; this | As stated below, with the exception of children whose sitting height is less than 63 cm (starting on April 18, 2019, children must be at least 145 cm tall or 9 years old), all occupants sitting in the |
seat belt must be properly fastened. Driving a road vehicle is prohibited if the driver or passenger seat belt is missing or unusable or has been altered.

A child whose sitting position, measured from the buttocks to the top of the head, is below 63 cm must be seated in a restraint system or booster seat in compliance with regulations referred to in the Motor Vehicle Safety Act. The restraint system or booster seat must be suitable for the child’s height and weight and be securely attached to the vehicle in accordance with the manufacturer’s instructions. This obligation does not apply in taxis or police vehicles, in which case the child must be restrained by the seat belt available.

However, the Société de l’assurance automobile du Québec (SAAQ) may issue a certificate exempting a person from the obligation to wear a seat belt or use a restraint device for exceptional medical reasons.

front or back seat of a moving motor vehicle must wear and properly fasten the seat belt provided. Driving a road vehicle is prohibited if the driver or passenger seat belt is missing, unusable or has been altered.

A child whose sitting height is less than 63 cm, measured from the seat to the top of the head, must be placed in a restraint system or booster seat in compliance with the applicable regulations referred to in of the Motor Vehicle Safety Act. However, as of April 18, 2019, a new measure will be in effect, and children who are 145 cm tall or less or under 9 years old must be secured in a car seat suitable for their weight and height.

The restraint system or booster seat must, in accordance with the accompanying manufacturer’s instructions, be suited to the child’s weight and height, and be properly installed in the vehicle. This obligation does not apply in taxis or police vehicles, in which case the child must be restrained by the seat belt available.

However, the Société de l’assurance automobile du Québec (SAAQ) may, for exceptional medical reasons, issue a certificate exempting a person from wearing or partially wearing a seat belt or authorizing them, in particular, to add devices to the seat belt or vehicle seat.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pages</th>
<th>Anciens textes</th>
<th>Nouveaux textes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>222</td>
<td>infants must always be seated in a rear-facing infant safety seat that is secured to the back seat (in the centre if possible);</td>
<td>infants must always be seated in a rear-facing infant safety seat that is secured to the back seat (in the middle, vehicle permitting);</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>223</td>
<td>children age 12 and under must always be seated in a child safety seat adapted to their weight and size that is secured on the back seat;</td>
<td>children age 12 and under must always be seated in the back seat and, where required, in a seat that is suited to their weight and height, and secured to the back seat;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>226</td>
<td>Three or five lanes of two-way traffic</td>
<td>Centre left-turn lanes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>[Ajout]</td>
<td>On two-way roadways that have three or five lanes, the centre lane is reserved exclusively for making left turns (both directions). The procedure is to travel in the right-hand lanes and use the centre lane only to turn left.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>227</td>
<td>in a school zone when children are entering or leaving school:</td>
<td>Intersections</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>[Ajout]</td>
<td>In intersections, the risk of danger or an accident is high. This is the reason why it is prohibited to come to a stop, block a lane or change lanes in an intersection.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>228</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pages</td>
<td>Anciens textes</td>
<td>Nouveaux textes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------</td>
<td>---------------</td>
<td>----------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>230</td>
<td><strong>Passing a bicycle</strong>&lt;br&gt;• If you want to pass a bicycle, you can stay in the same lane if there is enough room to complete the manoeuvre safely. Leave a distance of 1 to 1.5 metres between your vehicle and the cyclist to pass safely, or use the left lane if it is possible to do so.</td>
<td><strong>Passing a bicycle</strong>&lt;br&gt;• If you want to pass a cyclist, you must leave a distance of 1 to 1.5 metres between your vehicle and the bicycle in order to pass safely, or use the left lane if it is possible to do so. If there is not enough room to perform the manoeuvre, you must stay in your lane, reduce your speed and wait behind the cyclist until there is an opportunity to pass.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>230</td>
<td>Leave a distance of 1 to 1.5 metres between your vehicle and the cyclist to pass safely, or use the left lane if it is possible to do so.</td>
<td><strong>Passing a bicycle</strong>&lt;br&gt;• If you want to pass a bicycle, you must leave a distance of:&lt;br&gt;• 1 m on a road of 50 km/h or less;&lt;br&gt;• 1.5 m on a road of over 50 km/h.&lt;br&gt;If there is not enough room to perform the manoeuvre, you must stay in your lane, reduce your speed and wait behind the cyclist until there is an opportunity to pass.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>238</td>
<td><strong>Turning right on a red light</strong>&lt;br&gt;To safely turn right at a red light:</td>
<td>To safely turn right at a red light, motorists must follow these steps:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>p.239</td>
<td>Ajout avant <em>Indicating your intentions and presence</em></td>
<td><strong>Traffic circles</strong>&lt;br&gt;A traffic circle is a roadway configuration that contains one to three lanes and encompasses a central island. Traffic flows counterclockwise.&lt;br&gt;&lt;b&gt;Basic principles&lt;/b&gt;&lt;br&gt;1. You always enter a traffic circle &lt;b&gt;from the right&lt;/b&gt;.&lt;br&gt;2. You must &lt;b&gt;yield the right of way to drivers who are already travelling&lt;/b&gt; in the circle.&lt;br&gt;3. If there is a &lt;b&gt;pedestrian crosswalk&lt;/b&gt;, you must yield them the right of way.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
How to drive through a traffic circle
To drive through a traffic circle, you must:

1. **Reduce your speed**
   Slow down as you approach the traffic circle and observe the signs. Be prepared to come to a complete stop:
   - if a pedestrian is crossing or about to do so;
   - if a vehicle is already in the traffic circle, to the left.

2. **Yield the right of way**
   Before entering, yield to vehicles that are already in the traffic circle, as they have the right of way.

3. **Enter from the right**
   Enter the traffic circle when it is safe to do so.

4. **Travel in the same direction as traffic**
   Do not pass other vehicles or stop unless in the case of an emergency, such as to avoid a collision.

5. **When exiting the traffic circle:**
   - Signal your intention using your turn signals;
   - Exit the traffic circle (watch for pedestrians).

In the presence of pedestrians
Drivers and cyclists must yield the right of way to pedestrians crossing or preparing to cross:

- at a green light;
- at a white pedestrian light, flashing or not;
- at a pedestrian crosswalk;
- at an intersection regulated by one or several stop signs;
- at an intersection regulated by a yield sign.

In the presence of pedestrians
Drivers must yield the right of way to pedestrians crossing or preparing to cross:

- at a green light;
- at a pedestrian light (white), flashing or not;
- at an intersection regulated by one or several stop signs;
- at an intersection regulated by a yield sign.

At a pedestrian crosswalk
Drivers must yield the right of way to pedestrians who are crossing or clearly signalling their intention to cross the road by:

- walking toward the pedestrian crosswalk;
- waiting at a pedestrian crosswalk;
- making eye contact with the driver;
## In the presence of a group of cyclists

Unless authorized to do so by a peace officer, drivers cannot pass a group of cyclists travelling on a road with one lane of traffic in each direction. If the group is travelling against oncoming traffic, the driver must slow down and maintain a buffer lane. Drivers can pass a group of cyclists travelling on a road with two or more lanes of traffic in each direction. The driver must first slow down and then move to the other lane heading in the same direction as he or she is travelling, provided this manoeuvre can be made safely and without danger.

### Turning at an intersection

Drivers and cyclists are required to:
- yield the right of way to pedestrians and cyclists crossing the roadway that they wish to enter. In the example illustrated, the driver of vehicle 1 yields the right of way to the pedestrian;
- yield the right of way to pedestrians and cyclists who are crossing or travelling alongside the roadway that they wish to cross or enter. In the example illustrated...

### Emergency vehicles

Drivers must yield the right of way to an emergency vehicle whose flashing or rotating lights and/or sirens are activated. Remain calm and provide room for such vehicles to pass, regardless of where they are or which direction they are travelling (oncoming lane, behind you, beside you, etc.).

#### Procedure to follow

- Reduce your speed;
- Keep as far to the right as possible;
- Come to a stop, if necessary.

Stay clear of intersections and never turn in front of an emergency vehicle (it is better to backtrack, if necessary) or attempt to follow closely behind one. Adopting good behaviours helps to save lives; every second counts.
Interception by a police vehicle

If a driver is being followed by a police vehicle whose flashing or rotating lights and/or sirens are activated, the police officer may have observed an offence. Remain calm and follow the required procedure.

Procedure to follow
- Activate your turn signals;
- Pull over to the side of the road as soon as you can do so safely;
- Come to a stop;
- Place your hands on the steering wheel so they are visible.

The police officer will inform you of the reason for the interception and ask questions, which you are obligated to answer. Be cooperative. If the interception takes place at night, do not be surprised if the police officer points a flashlight at you and the inside of the vehicle.

Buffer lane

The purpose of a buffer lane is to ensure the safety of certain workers who must exit their vehicle to perform their tasks. When approaching stopped vehicles with flashing or rotating lights or a yellow arrow signal light, you must:
- reduce your speed;
- distance yourself as far as possible from the stopped vehicle after ensuring that you can do so safely;
- come to a stop, if necessary.

Stopped vehicles that require a buffer lane
- Emergency vehicles: police vehicles, ambulances, fire department vehicles, Contrôle routier Québec vehicles;
- Surveillance vehicles equipped with a yellow arrow signal light;
- Tow trucks.

Procedure to follow
The procedure is different depending on whether you are travelling on a two-way road or a multi-lane road.
- Two-way road
### School buses

You must be ready to stop near a school bus. School buses make frequent stops to take on and drop off children. To avoid having other vehicles suddenly slow down or stop, the school bus driver who intends to stop must warn other drivers. Remember these two steps:

- When the school bus’s flashing amber lights or hazard lights are activated, be prepared to stop your vehicle;
- When the bus’s flashing red lights or stop sign are activated, bring your vehicle to a complete stop.

You must stop at least five metres from a vehicle used to carry school children if its flashing red lights are in operation or its mandatory stop arm is extended. You may pass the vehicle in either direction if its flashing red lights are off and the stop arm retracted, provided it is safe to do so.

This applies to vehicles travelling on the same roadway, traffic route or road that is not separated by a median as the vehicle used to carry school children, travelling in either direction. If traffic lanes are separated by a median or another divider, oncoming vehicles are not required to stop.

You must come to a stop at least five metres from a school bus when its flashing red lights are activated or its mandatory stop sign is extended. You may proceed when the flashing lights are turned off, the stop sign is retracted and it is safe to advance.

This obligation applies to drivers who are travelling on the same roadway as a school bus, regardless of its location (in front of you or on a perpendicular roadway). However, if the roadway is separated by a median or another type of divider, this obligation does not apply.

### Shared streets

A shared street is a street on which pedestrians have the right of way. Road vehicles are also authorized to travel on such streets.

- The speed limit is 20 km/h.
- Pedestrians can walk in any direction and cross at any time or location.
### Bicycle boulevards

A bicycle boulevard is a street on which cyclists have the right of way and can travel along the entire width of the lane. Road vehicles are also authorized to travel on such streets.

- The speed limit is 30 km/h.
- Signs indicate the start and end of a bicycle boulevard.
- Cyclists can ride side by side, except when travelling against oncoming traffic.

### Interdictions

Parking or stopping is prohibited:

- at any place where parking is prohibited by a sign;
- on a sidewalk or the median strip of a roadway;
- at an intersection, on a pedestrian crosswalk or on a level crossing or less than five metres from one of these;
- on highways and on their access and exit ramps;
- on an elevated lane, a bridge or an overpass, or in a tunnel;
- on a public roadway where the speed limit is 70 km/h or more;
- within five metres of a stop sign, fire hydrant, or police or fire station;
- in a traffic lane reserved exclusively for certain vehicles;
- within eight metres of a police or fire station located on the opposite side of the roadway;
- in zones reserved for buses and identified as such;
- in loading zones;
- in front of a sidewalk ramp specially built for people with a disability;
- in a parking space reserved for the exclusive use of people with a disability.

### Restrictions

Parking or stopping is prohibited:

- at any place where parking is prohibited by a sign;
- on a sidewalk or the median strip of a roadway;
- less than:
  - 3 metres from a fire hydrant;
  - 5 metres from a police or fire station;
  - 5 metres from an intersection, pedestrian crosswalk, bicycle crossing or level crossing;
  - 8 metres from the opposite side of a road facing a police or fire station;
- in an intersection, a pedestrian crosswalk, a bicycle crossing or a level crossing;
- in a traffic circle;
- on highways and on their access and exit ramps;
- on an elevated lane, a bridge or an overpass, or in a tunnel;
- on the travelway of a public roadway where the speed limit is 70 km/h or more;
- in a traffic lane reserved exclusively for certain vehicles;
- in zones reserved for buses and identified as such;
- in loading zones;
- in front of a sidewalk ramp specially built for people with a disability;
### 256 Alcohol

Vehicle occupants are prohibited from drinking alcohol while in a moving vehicle or while parked in an area where public traffic is permitted.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Anciens textes</th>
<th>Nouveaux textes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>in a parking space reserved for the exclusive use of people with a disability.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 257 Personal audio players, screens and radar detectors

In no case may you use headphones or earphones while driving. Apart from the exceptions set out in the Regulation respecting safety standards for road vehicles, driving a vehicle equipped with any of the following is prohibited:

- a television or screen that displays information and is placed so that the driver can see the screen;
- a radar detector.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Anciens textes</th>
<th>Nouveaux textes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Alcohol or drugs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Vehicle occupants are prohibited from consuming alcohol or drugs while in a moving vehicle or while parked in a public place.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 258 No person may drive a road vehicle in which a passenger, an animal or an object is so placed as to obstruct the driver’s view or to interfere with the proper handling of the vehicle.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Anciens textes</th>
<th>Nouveaux textes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>No person may drive a road vehicle in which a passenger, an animal or an object obstructs the driver’s view or interferes with the proper handling of the vehicle.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 259 Ajout après le 2e paragraphe de Special Rules For Certain Road Users

All road users must be careful and considerate when travelling on a public highway, especially toward more vulnerable users. Vulnerable users, for their part, have a duty to adopt behaviours that enhance their own safety.

### 262 Mandatory accessories

Bicycles must be equipped with a white reflector in front and red reflectors at the rear. Each pedal must also be equipped with a yellow reflector, and reflectors must be affixed on the spokes of the front and rear wheels. Bicycles must have at least one white headlight and one red tail light for night riding.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Anciens textes</th>
<th>Nouveaux textes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mandatory accessories</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>At the front</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Bicycles must be equipped with one white reflector, as well as at least one headlight or a white light with a flasher setting for nighttime use.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Anciens textes</th>
<th>Nouveaux textes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>At the rear</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Bicycles must be equipped with one red reflector at the rear, as well as a red light with a flasher setting for nighttime use.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Bicycles must be equipped with a yellow or white reflector on each pedal. Otherwise, the cyclist must wear a reflective band around each ankle or shoes with reflective strips.

**Front wheel**

Bicycles must be equipped with one of the following visibility accessories:

- Yellow or white reflector attached to the wheel spokes and visible on both sides of the bicycle;
- Tire with reflective sidewalls;
- Continuous reflective strip along the entire circumference of the wheel (both sides).

If there are no such reflective devices, you must install a yellow or white reflective strip on each side of the bicycle fork.

**Rear wheel**

Bicycles must be equipped with one of the following visibility accessories on the rear wheel:

- Red or white reflector attached to the wheel spokes and visible on both sides of the bicycle;
- Red or white reflective strip on each seat stay;
- Tire with reflective sidewalls;
- Continuous reflective strip along the entire circumference of the wheel (both sides).

If there are no such reflective devices, you must install a red reflective strip on each seat stay.

---

263

A. to slow down or stop, by pointing the left arm towards the ground;
B. to turn right, by holding the left forearm up at a right angle or by holding the right arm out horizontally;
C. to turn left, by holding the left arm out horizontally.

A. to turn right, by holding the left forearm up at a right angle or by holding the right arm out horizontally;
B. to turn left, by holding the left arm out horizontally.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pages</th>
<th>Anciens textes</th>
<th>Nouveaux textes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>263</td>
<td><strong>Ride on the far right-hand side of the roadway, in the same direction as traffic, except:</strong></td>
<td><strong>Ride as closely as possible to the edge of the roadway or the right side of the road, in the same direction as traffic, except:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>264</td>
<td><strong>Riding a bicycle is prohibited between two adjacent lanes of vehicles, regardless of whether the vehicles are stopped or moving, and on highways or their access or exit ramps.</strong></td>
<td><strong>Riding a bicycle is prohibited on highways, their access or exit ramps, as well as between two rows of vehicles, except if the lane on which the cyclist is travelling is adjacent to a right-turn lane.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>264</td>
<td><strong>You may not ride on the sidewalk unless you have to or unless permitted by the appropriate signs.</strong></td>
<td><strong>You may not ride on the sidewalk unless you have to or are permitted to do so by the appropriate signs, in which case, you must travel at a reasonable and safe speed, and give pedestrians the right of way.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>264</td>
<td><strong>Although using bikeways is not mandatory, you should use them for your own safety and the safety of other road users. If the roadway has a paved shoulder, use it.</strong></td>
<td><strong>Note that using bikeways is not mandatory. Moreover, if there is a shoulder on the side of the road, cyclists can travel on it in the same direction as traffic.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>264</td>
<td><strong>Drinking alcoholic beverages while cycling is forbidden, as is carrying a passenger on a bicycle that is not equipped with a fixed seat for that purpose. You may not ride on the sidewalk unless you have to or unless permitted by the appropriate signs. It is also forbidden to hold onto a moving vehicle or to ride while using earphones or a portable music player.</strong></td>
<td><strong>Drinking alcoholic beverages while cycling is forbidden, as is carrying a passenger on a bicycle that is not equipped with a fixed seat for that purpose. You may not ride on the sidewalk unless you have to or are permitted to do so by the appropriate signs. In addition, you cannot hold onto a moving vehicle or wear headphones while riding.</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Cyclists are not obligated to signal their intention to turn if the signalling manoeuvre endangers their safety.
### Make sure you can be seen

Motorcycles, mopeds and motorized scooters must be equipped with at least one white headlight in front, one red tail light, two turn-signal lights at the front and rear and a red brake light. **[Ajout]** Sidecars must be equipped with a red light at the rear, located as far to the right as possible.

**Make sure you can be seen**

In addition, motorcycles must have two yellow reflectors at the front and two red reflectors at the rear (one on each side).

Since 80% to 90% of all the information that you need to drive is gathered visually, you should constantly make sure that the drivers of other vehicles can see you. This is why your headlight should remain on the entire time your vehicle is in operation. Another way to be seen is to remain in the proper lane position at all times and wear brightly coloured clothing with reflector strips at night.

Since 80% to 90% of the information needed to drive is gathered visually, those who ride motorcycles, mopeds and motorized scooters must constantly make sure that they are seen by other drivers. This is why your headlight must be on at all times. It is also recommended that you use high beams at full strength during the day, especially when driving in metropolitan areas where there is an overabundance of visual information. Another way to ensure that you are seen is to remain in the proper lane position at all times and wear brightly coloured clothing with reflective strips at night.

### Riding a motorcycle, moped or motorized scooter

Riding a motorcycle, moped or motorized scooter is prohibited between two adjacent lanes of vehicles, whether the vehicles are stopped or moving. The use of motorcycles, mopeds or motorized scooters whose engine has a cylinder capacity of 125 cc or less is prohibited on highways and their access or exit ramps.

It is prohibited to ride a motorcycle, moped or motorized scooter:

- directly between a moving vehicle and the shoulder of the road;
- directly between a row of moving vehicles and a row of parked vehicles;
- between two rows of moving or parked vehicles;

Moreover, it is prohibited to ride a motorcycle, moped or motorized scooter with a cylinder capacity of 125 cc or less on highways and their access or exit ramps.

### You may not carry a passenger

You may not carry a passenger unless your motorcycle, moped or motorized scooter is equipped with a permanently fixed seat designed for that purpose and footrests fixed on each side.

A child who requires a booster seat or a restraint system is not permitted to ride in the sidecar of a motorcycle.

### No drinking and driving

Drinking alcoholic beverages is prohibited on off-road vehicles and on sleds or trailers towed by off-road vehicles.

The consumption of alcohol or drugs is prohibited on off-road vehicles and on sleds or trailers towed by off-road vehicles.

### Fees

1. Other fees are added to this fine, determined based on the amount of the penalty and a mandatory contribution of $10 to the IVAC crime victims compensation program.

1. Other fees are added to the fine, based on the amount of the penalty, as well as a mandatory contribution to the IVAC crime victims compensation program.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pages</th>
<th>Anciens textes</th>
<th>Nouveaux textes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>302</td>
<td>Ajout</td>
<td>Failure to yield the right of way to a pedestrian at a pedestrian crosswalk $100 to $200</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 302   | Driving while using a handheld device that includes a telephone function 80 $ à 100 $ | Driving while using an electronic device  
- $300 to $600 for the first offence  
- $600 for a repeat offence*  
* 2-year reference period. |
| 302   | Driving or riding in a motor vehicle on a public roadway without wearing a properly fastened seat belt 80 $ à 100 $ | Driving or riding in a motor vehicle on a public roadway without wearing a properly fastened seat belt  
$200 to $300 |
| 302   | Failure to use a turn-signal light to signal the intention to pass another vehicle 30 $ à 60 $ | Failure to use a turn-signal light to signal the intention to pass another vehicle  
$100 to $200 |
| 303   | Ajout après Passing or driving by a school bus or minibus when its flashing lights are in operation | Failure to obey orders and signals given by a peace officer, a school crossing guard or a flagperson in charge of directing traffic around a work site  
$200 to $400 |
| 304   | NB: These amounts are doubled when a driver is convicted of an excessive speeding offence as well as for any speeding offence committed in a road construction zone indicated by signs and signals. If you are found guilty of an excessive speeding offence and have three or more previous convictions for excessive speeding within the 10 years following the date this measure came into effect, fines are tripled. | NB: These amounts are doubled when a driver is convicted of an excessive speeding offence or any speeding offence committed in a school zone or a road construction zone indicated by signs and signals. If you are found guilty of an excessive speeding offence and have three or more previous convictions for excessive speeding within the past 10 years, fines are tripled. |
| 305   | Bicycle  
Remplacer à 8 emplacements :  
$15 to $30 | Bicycle  
$80 to $100 |
| 306   | Motorcycles, mopeds and scooters  
- Failure to remain seated while riding or to hold onto the handlebars at all times  
$30 to $60 | Motorcycles, mopeds and scooters  
- Failure to remain seated while riding or to hold onto the handlebars at all times  
$100 to $200 |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pages</th>
<th>Anciens textes</th>
<th>Nouveaux textes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| • Failure to wear a helmet  
$80 to $100 | • Failure to wear a helmet  
$200 to $300 |
| • [Ajout] | • Failure to wear eye protection (visor, face shield or protective goggles)  
$80 to $100 |
| • Failure to ride in staggered formation when travelling as a pair or group  
$100 to $200 | • Failure to ride in staggered formation when travelling as a pair or group  
$100 to $200 |
| • Carrying a passenger when the driver is under age 16 (moped or scooter)  
$100 | • Carrying a passenger when the driver is under age 16 (moped or scooter)  
$100 |
| • Riding between two contiguous lanes of vehicles  
$100 to $200 | • Driving:  
- between two rows of vehicles travelling in adjacent lanes  
- directly between a moving vehicle and the shoulder of the road  
- directly between a moving vehicle and a parked vehicle (on the left or right side of the road)  
$100 to $200 |
| • [Ajout] | • Failure to comply with the midnight to 5 a.m. driving curfew applicable to novice motorcycle drivers while they are in training  
$200 to $300 |

306 Failure to travel on the far right-hand side of the roadway, with the flow of traffic  
Failure to travel as closely as possible to the edge of the roadway or the right side of the road and in the same direction as traffic

306 Wearing headphones or earphones while cycling  
Wearing headphones  
$80 to $100  
[Déplacer après Holding onto a moving power-assisted bicycle or being pulled by one]

306 Ajout avant Wearing headphones  
Handling an electronic device while riding a bicycle  
$80 to $100

306 Ajout après Holding onto a moving power-assisted bicycle or being pulled by one...  
Failure to obey orders and signals given by a peace officer, a school crossing guard or a flagperson in charge of directing traffic around a work site  
$80 to $100

309 Driving while using a handheld device that includes a telephone function  
Driving while using an electronic device
### Pages

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Anciens textes</th>
<th>Nouveaux textes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>309</td>
<td>Failure to obey orders or signals given by a school crossing guard, flagperson or peace officer</td>
<td>Failure to obey orders or signals given by a school crossing guard, flagperson or peace officer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>310</td>
<td>Driving without an accompanying rider (learner’s licence holder)</td>
<td>Driving without an accompanying rider (learner’s licence holders) or during the driving prohibition period</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(Ajout)</td>
<td>Driving with certain passengers during the driving prohibition period (probationary licence holders aged 19 or under)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>310</td>
<td>For holders of a learner’s licence, a probationary licence or a driver’s licence with an alcohol ignition interlock requirement as well as <strong>for persons 21 or younger who have held a licence to drive only a moped, scooter or farm tractor for less than five years</strong>.</td>
<td>For holders of a learner’s licence, a probationary licence or a driver’s licence with an alcohol ignition interlock requirement, as well as <strong>for persons under 22 years of age or holders of a driver’s licence who have held a licence to drive only a moped, scooter or farm tractor for less than five years</strong>.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 311 à 316 | Supprimer les pages 311 à 316 et les remplacer par le contenu suivant          | **Penalties and costs of impaired driving**  

The *Criminal Code* (Canada) and the *Highway Safety Code* (Québec) are applicable in cases of alcohol- or drug-impaired driving, and provide for various measures and penalties.  

**Penalties for a first offence**  

**Penalties upon arrest**  

- 90-day licence suspension;  
- 30-day vehicle seizure and impoundment if blood alcohol level is above 160 mg/100 ml or for failure to comply with an order given by a peace officer;  
- Licence suspension:  
  - 24 hours if the driver fails physical coordination tests (PCTs);  
  - 90 days if the driver fails an evaluation by the evaluating officer;  
  - 90 days, if drugs are detected using a salivary test, and a criminal penalty (doubled if it is a repeat offence).  
- Assessment of the risk of a repeat offence (depending on the situation).  

**After trial**  

In the event of a conviction by a criminal court judge:  

- Criminal record;
### Anciens textes

- Prohibition from driving for a minimum period of one year;
- Assessment of the risk of a repeat offence (depending on the situation);
- Alcofrein program (depending on the situation);
- Ignition interlock device (variable duration depending on the situation).

### Costs

- Minimum fine
  - $1000
- Seizure and impoundment of the vehicle (depending on the situation)
  - $600
- Alcofrein program (depending on the situation)
  - $150
- Assessment of the risk of a repeat offence
  - $300 to $710
- Ignition interlock device (variable duration depending on the situation)
  - $100 per month
- Additional SAAQ insurance contribution
  - $300

This comes to a total cost of at least $1750, in addition to the inconveniences and various other expenses:

- Criminal record;
- Lawyer fees;
- Higher private automobile insurance premium;
  - Travelling to the United States is more difficult, if not impossible (criminal record).

### Nouveaux textes

### Repeat offence

The seizure and impoundment of the vehicle increases to 90 days and the following penalties may also be applied:

- Imprisonment;
- Prohibition from registering, acquiring, renting or leasing, or putting into operation a vehicle in one’s name;
- Ignition interlock device for life.
For details on the penalties prescribed by the *Criminal Code* and the *Highway Safety Code*, consult the SAAQ Web site (saaq.gouv.qc.ca).