

Section 2.—Motor Vehicle Acts and Regulations.*

NOTE.—In this Section, it is obviously impossible to include the great mass of detailed regulations in force in each province. The purpose in view is to provide only the more important general information which would be useful, for example, to visiting motorists. Therefore, the regulations given for specific provinces are confined chiefly to those dealing with registration and speed limits. In addition, the sources are given from which more detailed information may be obtained.

General.—The licensing of motor vehicles and the regulation of motor vehicle traffic lies within the legislative jurisdiction of the Provincial Governments in Canada. Regulations which apply in all the provinces may be summarized as follows:—

Operators' Licences.—The operator of a motor vehicle must be over a specified age (usually 18 years) and must carry a licence, obtainable only after prescribed qualification tests and renewable annually. Special licences are required for chauffeurs, beginners, and operators under 18 years of age who have become qualified.

Motor Vehicle Regulations.—All motor vehicles and trailers must be registered annually, usually for the calendar year, with the payment of specified fees, and must carry two registration plates, one on the front and one on the back of the vehicle (one only, for the back, in the case of trailers). A change in ownership of the vehicle must be recorded with the registration authority. However, exemption from registration is granted for a specified period (usually at least 90 days) in any year to visiting private vehicles registered in another province or a State which grants reciprocal treatment. Further regulations require a safe standard of efficiency in the mechanism of the vehicle and in its brakes, and provide for its equipment with non-glare headlights and a proper rear light, with a satisfactory locking device, a muffler, a windshield wiper and a rear-vision mirror.

Traffic Regulations.—In all the provinces, vehicles keep to the right-hand side of the road. Motorists are everywhere required to observe traffic signs, lights, etc., placed at strategic points on highways and roads. While permissible speeds vary in different provinces, slower speeds are always required in cities, towns and villages, in passing schools and public playgrounds, at road intersections, railway crossings, or at other places or times where the view of the highway for a safe distance ahead is in any way obscured. Motor vehicles must not pass a street car which has stopped to take on or discharge passengers except where safety zones are provided. Accidents resulting in personal injury or property damage must be reported to a provincial or municipal police officer and any driver involved must not leave the scene of accident until he has rendered all possible aid.

Penalties.—These ascend in scale from small fines for minor infractions of any of the regulations to a suspension of the operator's driving permit, impounding of the car or imprisonment for serious infractions, recklessness, driving without an operator's licence, and especially for attempting, while intoxicated, to operate a motor vehicle. *

While the above regulations apply in all the provinces, certain important details in which the provinces differ are mentioned below:—

Prince Edward Island.—*Administration.*—The Provincial Secretary, Charlottetown. *Legislation.*—The Highway Traffic Act (c. 1, 1930) and amendments.

Motor Vehicle Regulations.—Registration fees are \$2.50 for cars not previously registered in the province and an annual marker fee of \$1 and tax of 50 cents per 100 pounds weight, both payable on Mar. 1 of each year.

*The information in this Section has been revised from material provided by the officials in charge of the administration of Motor Vehicle and Traffic Acts and Regulations in the individual provinces