

The safety regulations currently include 35 standards relating to the design and performance of passenger cars, trucks, buses, motorcycles, competition motorcycles, minibikes and trailers; six standards limiting motor vehicle exhaust, evaporative and noise emissions; and ten standards applying to snowmobiles. These standards will be reviewed regularly and additions or revisions incorporated to keep pace with engineering or technical advances. The regulations require all Canadian motor vehicle manufacturers or distributors to apply the national safety mark, accompanied by a label certifying compliance with all applicable federal motor vehicle safety standards, to every classified vehicle produced after January 1, 1971. Vehicles imported for commercial or individual use must comply with the Act and Regulations.

15.3.2 Motor vehicle and traffic regulations

Operators licences. The operator of a motor vehicle must be over a specified age, usually 16 years (17 in Newfoundland and generally 18 in Alberta but 16 for certain classes of motor vehicle), and must carry a licence, obtainable in most provinces only after prescribed qualification tests. A licence is renewable annually in Saskatchewan, the Yukon Territory and the Northwest Territories and annually at the end of the licensee's birth month in Manitoba; in Alberta it is renewable every five years but annually where a medical report is required; in British Columbia, it is renewable every five years expiring on the licensee's birth date and classified according to the operations by the licensee; in Quebec, operators and chauffeurs permits are renewable every two years on the holder's birthday; in New Brunswick a licence is renewable every two years and expires at the end of the licensee's birth month; in Newfoundland and Ontario a licence is issued on a three-year basis and expires on the licensee's birth date; and in Nova Scotia a licence is issued on a three-year basis and expires at the end of the licensee's birth month. Prince Edward Island is phasing into a three-year cycle.

Special licences are required for chauffeurs in all provinces except Newfoundland and British Columbia. In the Northwest Territories, persons under 18 but over 16 may obtain a chauffeurs licence at the discretion of the Registrar, on receipt of a letter of approval from the RCMP and a letter from the employer verifying that the licence is necessary for employment. In most provinces, a motorcycle operator is required to pass a special examination and have his driver's licence endorsed authorizing him to operate this class of vehicle or, if he has no driver's licence, he may be issued a licence to operate only a motorcycle. In Alberta a person under 16 but over 14 years of age is permitted to operate a motorcycle with a piston displacement of not more than 100 cc. Under regulations recently adopted in Quebec, all snowmobile operators must hold valid permits issued for that purpose. Operators or chauffeurs permits issued under the Highway Code are considered valid for snowmobiles. Special restrictions apply to minors; ten is the minimum age for obtaining a permit and operating conditions and locations are controlled.

Motor vehicle regulations. Motor vehicles and trailers are usually registered annually with the payment of specified fees. Most motor vehicles carry a registration plate on the front and one on the rear; trailers carry one on the rear.

In most provinces registration plates stay with the vehicle when it is sold, but in Quebec, Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta the owner retains them. In the Northwest Territories a vehicle's registration expires when it changes hands. The owner notifies the Registrar, returns the number plates and the new owner applies to register the transferred vehicle in his name. In Nova Scotia, vehicles change hands by due process of law and title must be secured before plates and permit are issued. A change of ownership must be recorded with the registration authority.

Exemption from registration is granted for a specified period, usually at least 90 days, although the maximum in Quebec is three months for non-residents. In Nova Scotia, a non-resident full-time student residing temporarily in the province may receive, without fee, a driver's licence, plates and permit in exchange for the same valid out-of-province documents; the latter are returned to his home province, state or territory. In Ontario the exemption period is six consecutive months for non-residents from other provinces and three for those with vehicles registered outside Canada. The regulations in Manitoba allow residents to use registration plates from other jurisdictions for 90 days; visitors are exempt from registration if the vehicle is not used for business; and an out-of-province student is exempt if his vehicle is properly registered in his home jurisdiction and he obtains a student sticker for the vehicle's