

of vehicle safety and environment protection. The standards mandated by the act are addressed to the safe design, construction and functioning of new motor vehicles in order to save lives and prevent injuries. The legislation, administered by the Department of Transport, applies to all new motor vehicles manufactured in or imported into Canada. It requires that all such vehicles and their components meet motor vehicle safety regulations at the point of manufacture or importation and obliges manufacturers to issue notices of safety defects. The safety of vehicles in use continues to be a provincial responsibility.

The safety regulations currently include 41 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 12 standards applying to snowmobiles. These standards are 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 sale or private use must also be certified to comply with the act and regulations.

The Motor Vehicle Tire Safety Act, adopted by Parliament in April 1976, provides authority for the enforcement of minimum safety standards for certain motor vehicle tires manufactured in or imported into Canada.

The Road and Motor Vehicle Safety Branch of the Department of Transport is responsible for the administration of the Motor Vehicle Safety Act and the Motor Vehicle Tire Safety Act, and the enforcement of regulations pertaining to them. In conjunction with this responsibility it has joined with the provinces in a five-year cooperative program aimed at reducing by 15% the fatality rate on Canadian roads by 1979. The Department of Transport is also constructing a Motor Vehicle Test Centre at Blainville, Que., and conducting research into cost-effective measures to improve traffic safety. The branch works closely with other federal government departments, the provinces and such international organizations as NATO, OECD and OAS on various specific road safety projects.

15.3.2 Motor vehicle and traffic regulations

Operators' licences. The operator of a motor vehicle must be over a specified age, usually 16 (17 in Newfoundland and generally 16 in Alberta and New Brunswick but 18 for certain classes of motor vehicle), and must carry a licence, obtainable in most provinces only after qualification tests. In New Brunswick the holder of an out-of-province licence must be 18. A licence is renewable annually in Saskatchewan 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 qualifications of the licensee; in Quebec drivers' permits expire on the holder's birthday in odd-numbered years for those born in odd-numbered years and vice versa for those born in even-numbered years; in New Brunswick a licence is renewable every two years and expires at the end of the licensee's birth month; in Newfoundland, Ontario and the Yukon Territory a licence is issued on a three-year basis and expires on the licensee's birth date; in Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island a licence is issued on a three-year basis and expires at the end of the licensee's birth month.

Special licences are required for chauffeurs in all provinces except Newfoundland, British Columbia, New Brunswick and the Yukon Territory. In British Columbia, New Brunswick, Manitoba and the Yukon Territory, although no special chauffeur's licence is issued, all drivers' licences are classified according to demonstrated skills at the time of licensing. There are six classes of licence, one for motorcycles and five for other vehicles. Special tests are given to taxi drivers