

Safety regulations require vehicles to meet certain mechanical and braking standards and stipulate that equipment include non-glare headlights, a proper rear light, a muffler, a windshield wiper, a rear-vision mirror and a horn. All motor vehicles and trailers registered in Nova Scotia must pass an annual safety inspection at an official inspection station. A vehicle which has been sold may not be registered to the new owner unless it passed an inspection while registered to the seller during the past year. Newfoundland requires a certificate of mechanical fitness before renewal of registration for vehicles two years old or more. In Ontario, Manitoba and Newfoundland a certificate of mechanical fitness is required before a vehicle sold on the second-hand market can be issued a permit for operation. At the time of sale, used car dealers must certify that the vehicle complies with the provincial equipment requirements. In Alberta the dealer must issue a certificate indicating whether or not the vehicle complies with the prescribed equipment regulations.

Traffic regulations. In all provinces and territories, vehicles keep to the right-hand side of the road. Everywhere motorists are required to observe traffic signs, lights, etc., placed at strategic points on highways and roads. The speed limit in Prince Edward Island, unless otherwise posted, is 60 mph in daytime and 55 at night; in Manitoba the basic speed limit is 60 mph in daytime and 50 at night unless otherwise posted — speed limits may be raised to 70 mph or modified in semi-built-up areas; in Alberta it is 60 mph in daytime and 50 at night, with the exception of a few selected sections of four-lane highway where higher speeds may be posted; in Nova Scotia the limit is a "reasonable and prudent" speed, with a maximum of 60 mph except where 65 mph is authorized; in Newfoundland the maximum speed is 60 mph unless otherwise posted, but some sections have a 50 mph limit at night; in New Brunswick maximum speeds vary from 50 to 60 mph depending on the type of highway; and in Ontario and Quebec maximum speeds vary from 50 to 70 mph depending on the type of highway. In the other provinces the maximum speed permitted is normally 50 mph; in Saskatchewan and British Columbia higher speed limits are posted where they are in effect. In the Yukon Territory the speed limit for all vehicles is 60 mph, unless otherwise posted. In the Northwest Territories the highway limit is 60 mph for all vehicles, day or night, except as otherwise posted, and in municipalities it is 30 mph except as posted. Slower speeds are required in cities, towns and villages, 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. In Nova Scotia, British Columbia and the Northwest Territories slower speeds are also required in school zones and when passing public playgrounds. Most provinces require vehicles to stop when a school bus is stopped to load or discharge children. Truck speed limits are at least five miles an hour below automobile speed limits, although in Manitoba, Northwest Territories, Prince Edward Island, Saskatchewan and British Columbia they are the same as for passenger vehicles. In most provinces accidents resulting in personal injury or property damage in excess of \$200 (\$100 in Quebec) must be reported to a police officer (in Nova Scotia to the Registrar of Motor Vehicles or to a police officer; in Quebec to a police officer or to the Motor Vehicle Bureau) and a driver involved must not leave the scene of an accident until he has rendered all possible aid and disclosed his name to the injured party. A similar regulation applies to snow vehicle drivers in Quebec and New Brunswick and to any off-highway vehicle driver in Alberta.

Driver licensing controls. All provinces and territories impose penalties for infractions of driving regulations, ranging from fines for minor infractions to suspension of the operator's driving permit, impounding of vehicle or imprisonment for more serious infractions. In most provinces penalties have been linked to a driver-improvement program, the aim of which is to correct faulty driving habits, not to take drivers off the road. The most common driver-improvement program includes the demerit-point system. In Prince Edward Island a driver who is suspended under the demerit-point system must take a driver-improvement course as a condition of reinstatement.

Safety responsibility legislation. Each province has enacted safety responsibility legislation. In general, laws provide for the automatic suspension of the driver's licence and/or motor vehicle registration of a person convicted of a serious offence (impaired driving, driving under suspension, dangerous driving, etc.) or a person whose uninsured vehicle is involved directly or indirectly in an accident resulting in damage in excess of \$200 or injury or death to any person (in Manitoba the amount is \$100 and in Nova Scotia, \$50; in Prince Edward Island suspensions depend on the circumstances of the accident). In Saskatchewan, Alberta, Quebec,