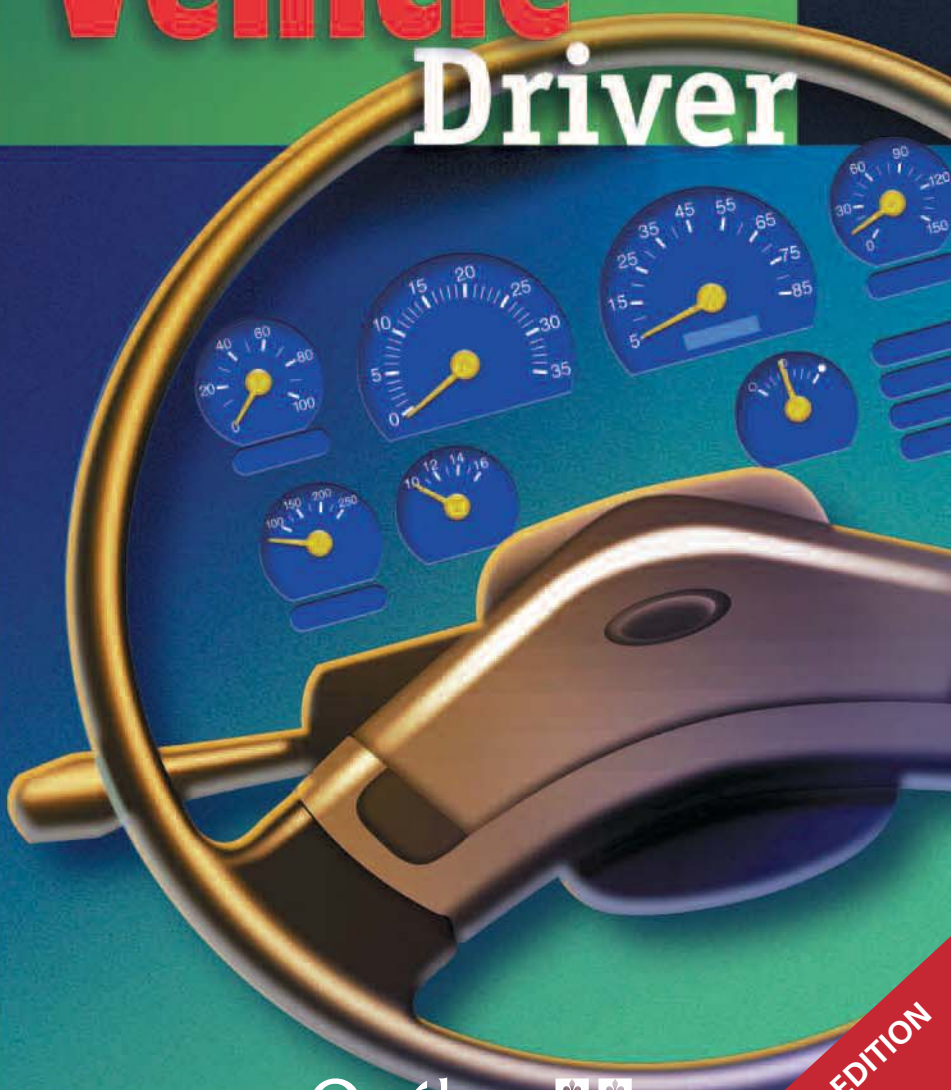


Prospective Heavy Vehicle Driver



Québec 

2009 EDITION

Important

To properly prepare for the knowledge and road tests, the SAAQ recommends that you study the following manuals (on sale at Publications du Québec outlets and bookstores):

- *Driver's Handbook*
- *Driving a Heavy Vehicle*

A driver's course could also be helpful in learning theory and practical skills, thereby increasing your chances of success.

Getting a licence is a serious matter!

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This document is not a text of law. For any references of a legal nature, please consult the *Highway Safety Code* and attendant regulations.

Version française disponible sur demande.

1st quarter 2009

Société de l'assurance automobile du Québec

INTRODUCTION

As professionals, heavy vehicle drivers must be committed to being responsible road users for whom safety is the prime concern. They have to make sound decisions in the face of potentially dangerous situations.

Good preparation is necessary, and that means prospective heavy vehicle drivers need to acquire the know-how and skills required to handle their complex and demanding task. They must also be up to date on the rules and regulations governing road transportation.

This publication presents the procedure and the required conditions for the issue of a licence to drive a heavy vehicle for:

- any person who wishes to obtain, for the first time, a class 1, 2 or 3 driver's licence;
- any holder of a class 3 licence who wishes to obtain a class 1 or 2 licence;
- any holder of a class 2 licence who wishes to obtain a class 1 licence.

The holder of a licence issued by a jurisdiction outside Québec, who moves to Québec and wants to exchange his or her licence or have a new class added, should contact the Société de l'assurance automobile du Québec by telephone; the numbers can be found at the end of this brochure.

LICENCE CLASSES AND ENDORSEMENTS

1

Class 1



A class 1 licence authorizes its holder to drive a combination of vehicles, i.e.:

- a double-axle road tractor with a net weight of 4,500 kg or more hauling one or more trailers or semitrailers;

or

- a triple-axle road tractor hauling one or more trailers or semitrailers;

or

- a truck covered by class 3 hauling a trailer or semitrailer whose net weight is 4,500 kg or more and which is only used to transport equipment, tools or furnishings as part of its permanent equipment;

or

- a truck covered by class 3 hauling any trailer or semitrailer other than those described above, with a net weight of 2,000 kg or more.

Class 1 also authorizes the holder to operate all other types of road vehicles, except for motorcycles.

Note: A road tractor is a motor vehicle that does not carry cargo space and that is permanently equipped with a fifth wheel.

Class 2



A class 2 licence authorizes its holder to drive:

- a bus with a seating capacity of more than 24 passengers;

- all other types of vehicles, except for vehicles covered by class 1 and motorcycles.

Certificate of competence to drive a school bus

To be allowed to drive a bus used to carry schoolchildren, the driver must not only hold a class 2 licence, but also a certificate of competence, issued after completing training and payment of the fee. To register for training or to get information on the certificate, contact either of the following transport training centres:

Centre de formation en transport de Charlesbourg	Centre de formation du transport routier de Saint-Jérôme
700, rue de l'Argon Charlesbourg (Québec) G2N 2G5	17000, rue Aubin Mirabel (Québec) J7J 1B1
Telephone: 418 634-5580 (toll free) 1 866 849-5580	Telephone: 450 435-0167 (toll free) 1 877 435-0167
Fax: 418 849-0290	Fax: 450 435-0933

Class 3



A class 3 licence authorizes its holder to drive:

- a heavy straight-body truck, i.e., a twin-axle truck with a net weight of 4,500 or over;
- any truck with three or more axles;
- a road vehicle hauling a trailer or semitrailer:
 - with a net weight of less than 2,000 kg;
 - with a net weight of at least 2,000 kg but less than 4,500 kg which is only used to transport equipment, tools or furnishings **as part of its permanent equipment.**
- all other types of vehicles, except for road vehicles covered by class 1, class 2 and motorcycles

F F Endorsement

Depending on the class of licence, the F endorsement on the licence holder's record attests to the ability to drive a heavy vehicle equipped with air brakes.

M M Endorsement

Depending on the class of licence, the M endorsement on the licence holder's record attests to the ability to drive a heavy vehicle equipped with a manual (standard) transmission.

T T Endorsement

The T endorsement on the licence holder's record attests to the ability to drive a road train, i.e. a double road train (a vehicle combination comprised of a tractor and two semitrailers) over 25 metres long. This type of vehicle requires a special road train operating permit issued by the SAAQ.

BASIC REQUIREMENTS

Before obtaining a class 1, 2 or 3 driver's licence, you must have:

a good driving record:

- You must have fewer than **4 demerit points** entered on your driving record.
- Your driver's licence must not have been **suspended or revoked during the previous two years** as the result of accumulating demerit points or a driving-related *Criminal Code* offence.

good health

- You must go to an SAAQ service centre to pass a **vision test** and to fill out a ***Declaration of Illness or Impairment*** form.

At that time, you will be given a form concerning your health that you must have filled out by your doctor and return to the SAAQ. This **report is required** in order to ensure that you meet the medical and visual acuity standards of the SAAQ, and that you are physically fit to drive a heavy vehicle.

After you have met the basic requirements set by the SAAQ regarding your health and driving record, and once you have learned the required theory, you can register for a **knowledge test**. After you pass this test, you can be issued a learner's licence with the class of licence sought.

This licence authorizes you to drive a heavy vehicle, **for a minimum learning period**, as long as you are **accompanied by a person who has held a driver's licence of the appropriate class for at least two years**. The accompanying rider must also have the appropriate endorsement on his or her licence for the equipment of the vehicle used.

Solid preparation

You must learn the theoretical and practical knowledge involved in driving a heavy vehicle. This includes knowing the *Highway Safety Code* and heavy vehicle driving techniques. You can then move on to the practical part.

To properly prepare for your test, you should study the *Driver's Handbook* and *Driving a Heavy Vehicle*. These guides are sold at Publications Québec outlets (1 800 463-2100) and bookstores.

To register for the knowledge test

To register for the knowledge test, you must make an appointment with the SAAQ.

If you want to have the F endorsement entered on your record, you can register for the knowledge test for this endorsement at the same time. If not, you will have to make another appointment, as you must pass this test before taking the road tests.

You may register by calling one of the following telephone numbers:

- in Québec (city and vicinity): 418 643-5213;
- in Montréal: 514 873-5803;
- elsewhere in Québec: 1 888 667-8687 (toll free).

ON THE DAY OF THE TEST

You must go to the selected SAAQ service centre at the time of the appointment and:

- ❑ show proof of identity by presenting your plasticized Québec driver's licence with photo or two pieces of ID from the following:
 - your health insurance card;
 - your birth certificate issued by the registrar of civil status (Directeur de l'État Civil) if you were born in Québec, or by the equivalent issuing authority if you were born elsewhere in Canada;
 - your Canadian passport;
 - proof of Canadian citizenship or confirmation of status issued by Citizenship and Immigration Canada.
- ❑ pass the knowledge test, which includes 32 multiple-choice questions; the passing mark is 75%.

This test covers traffic rules and the techniques involved in driving a heavy vehicle. You must show that you know what to do in a driving situation.
- ❑ pay the required amounts, either in cash or by cheque or with a debit card (except in mobile service units), for:
 - the knowledge tests (additional fees will be charged if the F endorsement knowledge test does not take place at the same appointment);
 - the learner's licence.

IF YOU FAIL THE TEST

At least **seven days** must have elapsed from the date of failure before you are allowed another try.

You must make another appointment with the SAAQ and pay for the new test fees.

CLASS 1, 2 OR 3 DRIVER'S LICENCES

Once you have the required driving experience, and after a learning period appropriate to the class of licence sought, you can apply for a class 1, 2 or 3 driver's licence.

You must then pass **two road tests**, one on pre-trip inspections and the other on driving a heavy vehicle.

A *minimum amount of driving experience* is required

Experience in driving a passenger vehicle (class 5) is required in order to obtain a licence to drive a heavy vehicle.

REQUIRED DRIVING EXPERIENCE ACCORDING TO CLASS	
Class	Experience Required
1	<p>The applicant must have 36 months cumulative experience as a holder of a class 5 vehicle (passenger vehicle) OR 24 months cumulative experience if he or she has completed the following training:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) the truck driving training program which leads to the Diploma of Vocational Studies issued by the Ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport; or b) a 300-hour driving course on the public roadway for heavy vehicles covered by class 1. <p>This program must include at least 40 hours of driving given by a heavy vehicle driving school AND a professional internship for the number of hours needed to complete the required 300 hours.</p> <p>Applicants must have either of these programs approved by the SAAQ, which may request certain documents, such as</p>

	<p>the learner's daily logs as well as those of the accompanying rider in the case of the 300-hour program.</p> <p>For further information, call:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • in Montréal : 514 873-7620; • in Québec (city and vicinity): 418 643-7620; • elsewhere in Québec: 1 800 361-7620 (toll free).
2 and 3	The applicant must have 24 months cumulative experience as a holder of a class 5 licence (passenger vehicle).

A *minimum learning period* is mandatory

This learning period is required to allow the acquisition of skills that are essential to driving a heavy vehicle. Before applying for a class 1, 2 or 3 driver's licence, you must have **held a learner's licence for three months, or for one month if you meet the requirements for the class sought.**

LENGTH OF THE LEARNING PERIOD	
Class	Requirements
1	<p>The applicant must have held a class 1 learner's licence for 3 months</p> <p>OR</p> <p>For 1 month if the applicant meets one of the following requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • applicant is registered in the truck driving training program which leads to the Diploma of Vocational Studies issued by the ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport and has successfully completed all mandatory sections of the program required to drive on the road without an accompanying rider; or;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • is aged 25 or over; or • has 60 months cumulative experience as a holder of a class 5 licence; or • holds a class 2 or 3 driver's licence.
2	<p>The applicant must have held a class 2 learner's licence for 3 months</p> <p>OR</p> <p>for 1 month if the applicant meets one of the following requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • applicant is aged 25 or over; or • has 60 months cumulative experience as a holder of a class 5 licence; or • holds a class 3 licence. <p>For an applicant who meets one of these three requirements, the one-month period may be substituted by a training program that includes at least 20 driving hours on the public roadway with a vehicle covered by a class 2 licence.</p> <p>This training must be given by a heavy vehicle operator, within the meaning of the <i>Act respecting owners, operators and drivers of heavy vehicles</i> (PECVL), who has received a satisfactory rating by virtue of this <i>Act</i>, and has not been sanctioned by the SAAQ within the previous two years under the administrative policy framework adopted by virtue of this <i>Act</i>.</p>

3

The applicant must have held a class 3 learner's licence for **3 months**

OR

for **1 month** if the applicant meets one of the following requirements:

- applicant is aged 25 or over; or
- has 60 months cumulative experience as a holder of a class 5 licence.

GETTING PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE

In order to gain practical experience driving a heavy vehicle on the road, you must **be accompanied by a person who has held, for at least two years, a valid driver's licence of the appropriate class for the vehicle driven.**

Moreover, when you are practicing with a vehicle equipped with air brakes (F endorsement) or a manual transmission (M endorsement) the accompanying rider's driver's licence record must have the appropriate endorsement. This rider must also be prepared to provide advice and assistance when you are driving a heavy vehicle.

Everyday, you must **remember to conduct a pre-trip inspection** before every heavy vehicle driving work shift. **This is mandatory.** This will help you develop a technique that will enable you to conduct **safe and effective** vehicle checks.

It is important to practise driving a heavy vehicle as often as you can on different types of roads and under various conditions.

TO REGISTER FOR THE TWO ROAD TESTS

To register for the pre-trip inspection and heavy vehicle road tests, you must make an appointment with the SAAQ and provide the file number that appears on your learner's licence under "No de dossier". Also mention any endorsement you wish to have entered on your next licence.

To make an appointment, call one of the following numbers:

- in Québec (city and vicinity) **418 643-5213**
- in Montréal: **514 873-5803**
- elsewhere in Québec: **1 888 667-8687** (toll free)

If you want to have the F endorsement, you must pass the knowledge test for this endorsement before taking the road test.

ON THE DAY OF THE TESTS

You must go to the selected service centre at the time of the appointment.

Remember to bring:

- your valid learner's licence AND one of the following:
 - your driver's licence with photo;
 - your health insurance card;
 - your birth certificate issued by the registrar of civil status (Directeur de l'État Civil) if you were born in Québec, or by the equivalent issuing authority if you were born elsewhere in Canada;
 - your Canadian passport;
 - proof of Canadian citizenship or confirmation of status issued by Citizenship and Immigration Canada;
 - government-issued identification
- the original of the vehicle's valid and signed registration certificate, as well as proof of liability insurance coverage for the vehicle or combination of vehicles you will be using for the road tests.

- ❑ Pay the required amounts, either in cash or by cheque or with a debit card (except in mobile service units), for:
 - the pre-trip inspection test;
 - the heavy vehicle road test;
 - the issue of your new licence.

If you are unable to keep your appointment, please cancel at least 48 hours ahead of time, or charges will apply.

REPORT TO YOUR ROAD TEST WITH A VEHICLE THAT IS UP TO STANDARDS

You must report to the road test appointment with:

- a vehicle that corresponds to the class of licence and endorsements sought;
- **a vehicle or combination of vehicles that is completely free of any mechanical defects;**
- a mechanical inspection certificate for the vehicle that is valid and in compliance with the *Highway Safety Code*.

For transporting goods, you must report to the test with a vehicle that is equipped to carry a load.

For class 3, the vehicle must be equipped with a flatbed, a dumper or a box for holding cargo.

Passengers are not allowed during road tests. The same goes for vehicles used to transport dangerous substances.

If the vehicle used does not meet SAAQ standards, you will be denied the road test.

SUMMARY DESCRIPTION OF TESTS

Before taking the road tests, you must have passed the knowledge tests.

The pre-trip inspection test

The SAAQ requires every prospective heavy vehicle driver to pass a specific pre-trip inspection test. This test assesses your ability to inspect a vehicle before getting on the road. This pre-trip inspection includes 14 mechanical components that all drivers must check before using a heavy vehicle.

The passing mark is 75 %.

There is a fee for the test.

To help you pass this test:

- carefully inspect all 14 pre-trip inspection components (see table “Components to check during a pre-trip inspection”), and practice identifying defects for each item;
- conduct a **safe and effective** inspection. You will be allowed 20 minutes to check a class 1 vehicle, and 15 minutes to check a class 2 or 3 vehicle.

Throughout the test, you must describe to the examiner what you are doing and the defects you are looking for. The examiner will listen and observe.

The heavy vehicle road test

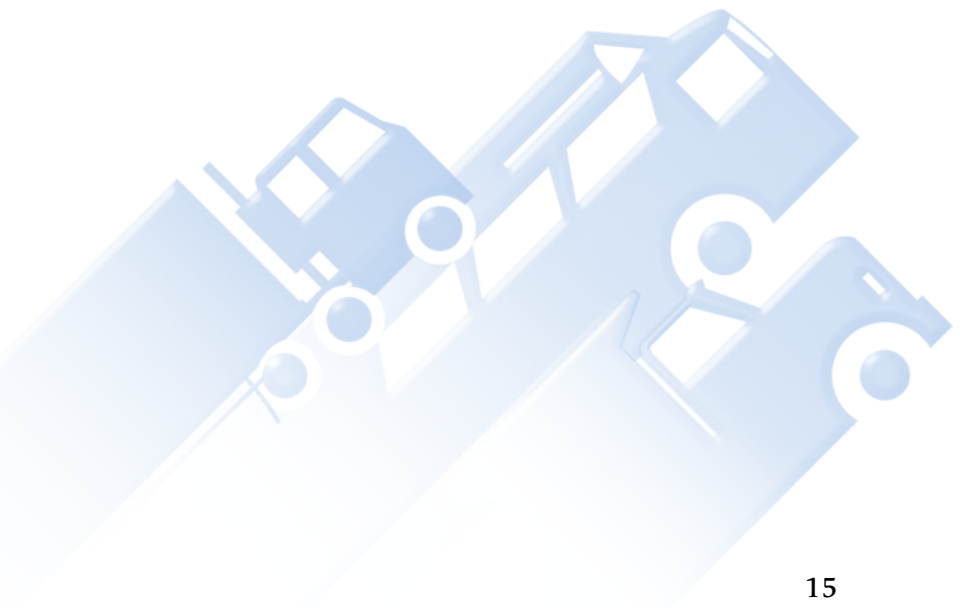
This test assesses a driver's ability to perform common on and off-highway manoeuvres when driving a combination of trucks, a bus or a transportation truck, as well as observance of traffic rules.

The passing mark is 75%.

There is a fee for the test.

Throughout the test, the examiner:

- assesses your driving skills in regard to commonly executed manoeuvres;
- monitors your observance of traffic rules and use of approved driving techniques;
- monitors your driving behaviour;
- rates your ability to execute the double-clutch technique if you are driving a vehicle with a manual transmission.



Tests for a licence endorsement for classes 1, 2 and 3



For the F endorsement

Passing a specific knowledge test for this endorsement is required before taking the road test.

There is a fee for this test if it is not taken at the same time as the learner's licence knowledge test.

A vehicle equipped with air brakes must be used for both road tests.

For the class 1 licence, you must use a truck and trailer that are fully equipped with air brakes.

The passing mark for each test is 75%.

There is a fee for the addition of an F endorsement to a licence class.



For the M endorsement

A vehicle equipped with a manual transmission must be used for the heavy vehicle road test.

The passing mark is 75%.

There is a fee for the addition of an M endorsement to a licence class.



For the T endorsement

To be allowed to drive a road train, you must have held a class 1 licence for at least 5 years. You may get a T endorsement after passing a specific knowledge test for this endorsement.

The passing mark is 75%.

Charges will apply.

After passing the tests, the SAAQ will issue a new driver's licence with the T endorsement.

IF YOU FAIL THE TEST(S)

You only retake the test you failed.

At least **seven days** must have elapsed from the date of failure before you are allowed another try.

You must make another appointment with the SAAQ and pay the test fees again.

When retaking a road test, you must report to the test with a heavy vehicle corresponding to the licence class and endorsement sought.

If you are only retaking the heavy vehicle road test, you must conduct a pre-trip inspection before reporting to the test with the vehicle.



COMPONENTS TO CHECK DURING A PRE-TRIP INSPECTION	You must check:
7. The windshield wipers	<input type="checkbox"/> operation of the windshield wipers <input type="checkbox"/> operation of the windshield washer
8. Mirrors <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • on <i>all vehicles</i> • other components on <i>school buses</i> 	<input type="checkbox"/> clarity of the image <input type="checkbox"/> sturdiness of the rear-view mirrors <input type="checkbox"/> clarity of the image <input type="checkbox"/> sturdiness of the mirrors
9. The trailer hitch <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • for tractor-semitrailers • for truck-trailers 	<input type="checkbox"/> condition of the fifth wheel <input type="checkbox"/> sturdiness of the fifth wheel <input type="checkbox"/> condition of the upper coupler and the kingpin <input type="checkbox"/> the hitch <input type="checkbox"/> condition of the pintle hook <input type="checkbox"/> condition of the drawbar
10. Wheels <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • attached to axles • spares 	<input type="checkbox"/> condition of the wheels <input type="checkbox"/> wheel assemblies <input type="checkbox"/> condition of the wheels <input type="checkbox"/> wheel attachment and support
11. Emergency equipment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • on <i>all vehicles</i> • other components on <i>school buses</i> 	<input type="checkbox"/> presence of flares or reflectors <input type="checkbox"/> presence of a fire extinguisher and a first-aid kit <input type="checkbox"/> fire extinguisher and first-aid kit holders
12. Suspension <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • springs • air ride 	<input type="checkbox"/> position of suspension components <input type="checkbox"/> condition of the springs <input type="checkbox"/> even balance of the vehicle <input type="checkbox"/> position of suspension components
13. Chassis frame	<input type="checkbox"/> condition of side rails and crossmembers <input type="checkbox"/> sturdiness of the frame
14. Load securing components	<input type="checkbox"/> securing of the load

A FEW REMINDERS

LICENCE VALIDITY

If you drive a vehicle that does not correspond to the class of your driver's licence or for which you do not have the appropriate endorsement entered on your record, **you are liable to penalties provided under the *Highway Safety Code*.**

In addition to a fine of \$438 to \$865*, the peace officer could have the vehicle you are driving seized and impounded for 30 days. **Towing and impounding charges will have to be paid by the vehicle owner.**

DEMERIT POINTS

The SAAQ enters demerit points on the driving record of drivers who commit certain offences under the *Highway Safety Code*.

*This amount, subject to change, includes the fine provided under the *Highway Safety Code*, registry fees, as well as a contribution to IVAC (Indemnisation des victimes d'actes criminels). Please note that other fees may apply.

QUÉBEC'S PUBLIC AUTOMOBILE INSURANCE PLAN

Coverage for bodily injury sustained in a road accident is provided by Québec's public insurance plan.

The public plan, in effect since March 1, 1978, provides all Quebecers with compensation for bodily injuries they sustain in a motor vehicle accident, no matter where it occurs in the world and whether they are drivers, passengers, cyclists or pedestrians. The plan administered by Québec's automobile insurance corporation is a no-fault scheme that compensates all victims regardless of who is responsible for the accident.

Québec driver's licence holders and owners of vehicles registered in Québec pay the costs of the public automobile insurance plan. The contribution from motorists to funding the plan is taken at the time of issue and renewal of a driver's licence and vehicle registration.

INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR PROPERTY DAMAGE

The *Automobile Insurance Act* **requires** all owners of a motor vehicle operated in Québec to carry liability insurance of at least \$50,000. For carriers, the minimum amount of mandatory liability insurance is one million dollars, and two million dollars for the transportation of dangerous substances. Policies providing this third-party coverage, covering property damage caused by the vehicle to another party, are offered by private insurance providers.

Has **36 months** cumulative experience as a holder of a class 5 licence

OR

24 months cumulative experience, and has successfully completed one of the following programs*:

- a) the truck driving training program which leads to the Diploma of Vocational Studies issued by the Ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport; or
- b) training that includes 300 hours of driving on the public roadway at the wheel of a heavy vehicle covered by a class 1 licence.

This program must include at least 40 hours of driving given by a heavy vehicle driving school AND a professional internship that includes the number of hours needed to complete the required 300 hours.

* the applicant must have either program approved by the SAAQ.

Has **24 months** cumulative experience as a holder of a class 5 driver's licence.

Has **24 months** cumulative experience as a holder of a class 5 driver's licence.

Pass two road tests with a vehicle equipped with air brakes:

- pre-trip inspection;
- driving a heavy vehicle.

Pass a road test with a vehicle equipped with a manual transmission:

- driving a heavy vehicle.

Pass a knowledge test.

Pass two road tests: • pre-trip inspection;
• driving a heavy vehicle.

To find out more about heavy vehicles and the obligations of drivers, you can obtain, free of charge, the following documents at SAAQ service centres:

- *Mechanical Inspection Guide*;
- *Obligations of Heavy Vehicle Operators*;
- *Wheel Loss - A Risk No One Can Run!*;
- *Wheel Loss Due to Faulty Bearings*;
- *Inspect Before You Go*.

For further information, call one of the following numbers:

in Québec (city and vicinity): **418 643-7620**
in Montréal: **514 873-7620**
elsewhere in Québec: **1 800 361-7620** (toll free)

You can also visit our Web site at:
www.saaq.gouv.qc.ca

Protection of Personal Information

All information gathered by authorized SAAQ personnel is handled confidentially. The SAAQ needs such personal information to enforce the *Automobile Insurance Act* and the *Highway Safety Code*. Under the *Act respecting access to documents held by public bodies and the Protection of personal information*, it may be conveyed to Government departments or agencies, or used for statistical, survey, study, audit or investigative purposes. Failure to provide information can result in a refusal of service on the SAAQ's part. Individuals may consult or correct any personal information concerning them held in SAAQ records.

For more information, contact the SAAQ's call centres or consult the Policy on Privacy on the SAAQ Web site at:
www.saaq.gouv.qc.ca.

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