

Requirement regarding speed limiters



Québec 

What are the benefits of using speed limiters?

Environmental – Estimates indicate that in Québec, activating speed limiters on heavy vehicles will lead to annual fuel savings of 46 million litres. As a result, greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions will be reduced by 130 kilotons of CO₂ per year.

Road safety – Activating the speed limiter will also have a positive impact on road safety. Infrastructures, road signs and traffic signals currently in use are designed to ensure safe driving as long as the posted speed limits are respected.

Many studies have highlighted the dangers drivers face when they exceed speed limits. It has been shown that:

- speed makes all road users feel less safe;
- speed induces significant stress which leads to fatigue and carelessness;
- the higher the speed, the narrower the field of vision;
- excessive speed makes steering and controlling a vehicle more difficult;
- braking distance increases with speed;
- in a collision, the higher the speed, the greater the impact and the resulting consequences.

Economic – Despite a slight increase in driving time, transportation companies will enjoy economic benefits from using speed limiters. Improved energy efficiency and lower maintenance costs will help reduce the overall cost of operation.

New requirement

A speed limiter must be activated and pre-set at **105 km/h** or less.

How can the speed limiter be activated?

The maximum speed of a vehicle can be pre-set by the manufacturer, dealer, mechanic or owner using a portable electronic device that is connected to a dedicated port. This operation only takes a few minutes to complete.

Why set the speed at 105 km/h when the posted speed limit on Québec's highways is 100 km/h?

The maximum speed has been set at 105 km/h in order to harmonize the regulation with other North American jurisdictions, some of which have slightly higher speed limits. Moreover, the extra 5 km/h speed can sometimes help a driver safely pass slower-moving vehicles.

Anyone may, however, set the maximum speed at less than 105 km/h if they wish to do so.



What enforcement measures will be implemented?

The use of speed limiters will be enforced using current practices and with the use of portable testing units.

First, police officers and carrier enforcement officers will monitor speed and detect heavy vehicles that travel at speeds over 105 km/h using current methods and technology.

Then, using a portable electronic testing unit connected to a port located inside the truck's cab, carrier enforcement officers can access the engine data to determine whether the speed limiter has been activated at a speed of 105 km/h.

What happens if the speed limiter is not activated?

Offenders could face a fine of \$350 to \$1,050 if the speed limiter was not activated at 105 km/h or less. The safety record of the vehicle operator could also eventually be affected.

The driver could also receive a speeding ticket for driving over the speed limit.

Simply driving a heavy vehicle in compliance with the speed limit **does not** meet this requirement.



Does this requirement apply outside of Québec?

This requirement also applies in Ontario since January 1, 2009. Ontario and Québec have agreed to harmonize their efforts in implementing this measure. Although the vehicles covered by this requirement are essentially the same for Québec and Ontario, it would be appropriate to check the legal provisions regarding the details specific to each jurisdiction.

For the time being, no similar measures are in effect in other North American jurisdictions. However, speed limiters should remain activated in order to continue reaping their benefits.

May I deactivate the speed limiter in my vehicle when I am travelling outside of Québec and Ontario?

If you have the required equipment, you can deactivate the speed limiter when driving the vehicle in a jurisdiction that does not have such a requirement. However, you must remember to reactivate the device when you return to Québec or Ontario.



What does this requirement involve?

Starting January 1, 2009, activation of the speed limiter, which is installed on most heavy vehicles travelling on Québec's road network, is mandatory. This device must be pre-set at a maximum speed of 105 km/h.

What is a speed limiter?

Most heavy vehicles assembled in or after 1995 are equipped with an Electronic Control Module (or ECM), which controls various engine parameters such as the maximum speed of the vehicle.

The speed limiter has no effect on engine performance and efficiency until the vehicle reaches the pre-set speed limit. Once this speed is reached, the ECM controls the fuel injection and prevents the vehicle from going any faster, even if the driver fully steps on the accelerator.

To whom does this requirement apply?

The operator: It is the responsibility of the operator, i.e. the person who offers transportation or towing services, or who operates a heavy vehicle for his or her own purposes, or a tool truck or equipment transport vehicle, to make sure that the speed limiter is activated. The operator can be the owner or lessee of the vehicle, with or without the services of a driver.

The driver: The driver must abide by the posted speed limits at all times.

Are foreign carriers also subject to this requirement?

All carriers, regardless of place of origin, who operate a vehicle covered under this requirement must activate the speed limiter when they travel in Québec.

What vehicles are covered under this requirement?

This requirement covers all trucks and equipment transport vehicles* assembled after December 31, 1994 (motor vehicles) with a gross vehicle weight rating of 11,794 kg (26,000 lbs) or more that are equipped with a factory-installed speed limiter.



The *gross vehicle weight rating*, which is determined by the manufacturer, represents **the weight of the vehicle, plus the maximum load the vehicle can carry.**

* **Equipment transport vehicle:** means a road vehicle with a net weight of more than 3 000 kg used solely for the transportation of machinery with which it is permanently equipped and its accessories. Emergency vehicles and vehicles that are used or can be used for the transportation of other goods are excluded from this definition.

What vehicles are exempted?

Buses, emergency vehicles, recreational vehicles and tool vehicles** are not subject to this requirement.

Moreover, it is not necessary to install a speed limiter on a vehicle that does not come with one installed as standard factory equipment.

Conversely, it is strictly prohibited to deactivate a speed limiter, or to use any device that could mislead anyone into believing that a deactivated speed limiter is activated.

** **Tool vehicle:** means a road vehicle, other than a vehicle mounted on a truck chassis, manufactured to perform work and the work station of which is an integral part of the driver's compartment. For the purposes of this definition, a truck chassis is a frame equipped with all the mechanical components required on a road vehicle designed for the transportation of persons, goods or equipment.

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