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NEW REQUIREMENTS REGARDING THE REMOVAL OF SNOW FROM HEAVY VEHICLES FOLLOWING THE AMENDMENT OF THE HIGHWAY SAFETY CODE AND ADVICE FOR WINTER DRIVING

A new provision of the *Highway Safety Code* on the removal of snow from vehicles came into effect on May 18, 2018.

Section 498.1 of the Code provides that “no person may drive a vehicle covered with snow, ice or any other matter that may detach from the vehicle and that may constitute a hazard for road users.” This provision requires that drivers remove the ice or snow from their vehicles before driving it on a public road. Drivers who contravene this provision are guilty of an offence and liable to a fine of \$60 to \$100.

The presence of ice or snow on a heavy vehicle travelling on public roads is a potential risk for all road users. The ice or snow that detach from a vehicle may reduce visibility, damage other vehicles, cause accidents with serious consequences, or injure users. This provision requires the removal of snow and ice from all vehicles, including heavy vehicles.

This new provision does not bring any change to Québec and Canadian regulations currently in force on occupational health and safety. Drivers, operators and shippers¹ still share responsibilities regarding the removal of snow from heavy vehicles. As a result, the co-operation between partners in the road freight transportation sector for the removal of snow from heavy vehicles remains important to ensure the safety of all road users.

¹ The term “shippers” includes shippers and consignees.

Advice for winter driving

Winter has already begun, and many operators and drivers prepare their heavy vehicle for more difficult weather conditions. For example, many operators make sure that their vehicles are fitted with [tires](#) suitable for driving on ice and snow, namely by using new or barely used tires, especially at the powered axles.

It is also important to stay informed about traffic conditions, before departure and during the route. The [Québec 511](#) website of the ministère des Transports allows users to know the condition of the road network, which is useful in the event of difficult [traffic conditions in winter](#) (in French only). With this resource, it is possible to better plan routes to optimize time and minimize risks. The [Société de l'assurance automobile du Québec](#) and the [Ministère](#) (in French only) also provide advice to road users about winter driving, among other things.

During winter, some roads may be temporarily closed when weather conditions do not allow vehicular traffic. In such a case, it is essential to observe signage and park heavy vehicles in a safe spot. Even if a road is open, it may be more prudent to avoid it. Trips should be allowed more time or even postponed during difficult winter conditions.

For more information, please visit the [ministère des Transports website](#) or contact [us](#).

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