

# Motor Vehicle – Highway Safety Initiatives

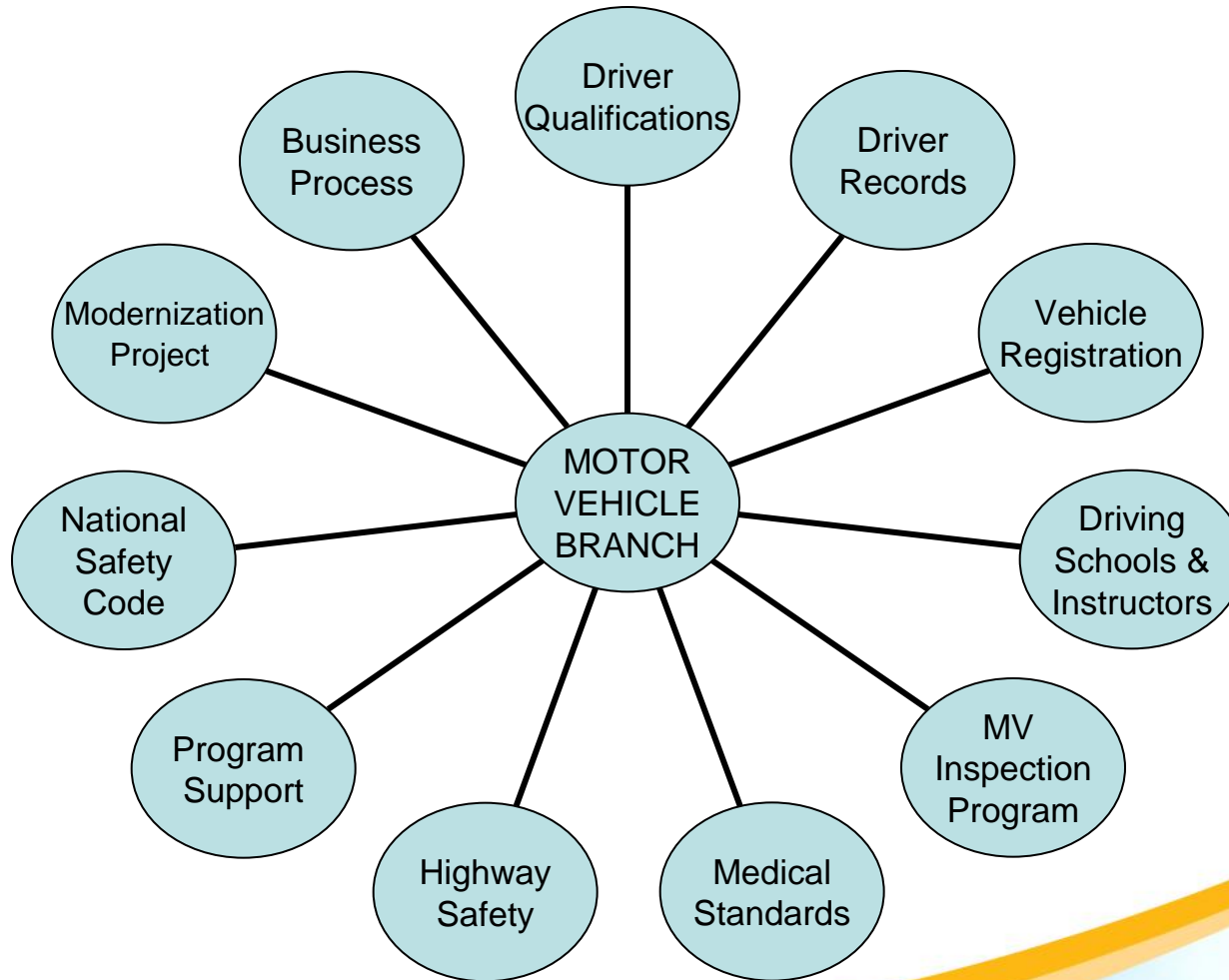
Department of Public Safety, Motor Vehicle Branch /  
Ministère de la Sécurité Publique, Direction des véhicules à moteur



May 2010



# Organizational Structure



# Highway Safety Initiatives

- Amendments to NB's *Motor Vehicle Act* aimed at:
  - Expanding police authority;
  - reducing impaired driving;
  - increasing seatbelt use; and
  - reducing speeding in school and construction zones.

# Highway Safety Initiatives- Reducing Impaired Driving

## Standard Field Sobriety Test

- Police have authority to request that a driver stop and submit to a Standard Field Sobriety Test when the police officer has reason to believe that a driver is under the influence of alcohol. This test helps police in determining if there is evidence to justify a demand for a breath sample.

# Highway Safety Initiatives- Reducing Impaired Driving

## Administrative Licence Suspension Program

- Implemented - September 2008
- Three month suspension

# Highway Safety Initiatives- Reducing Impaired Driving

## Ignition Interlock

- Implemented in September 2008.
- The alcohol ignition interlock program was established for persons convicted of impaired driving. The aim of the program is to modify the behaviour of individuals who drink and drive with a high blood alcohol percentage.

## Duration of Program

Offence	Suspension Period	Minimum drivers licence suspension	Time in interlock program
1	1 year	3 months	9 months
2	3 years	6 months	30 months
3+	5 years	12 months	48 months

# Highway Safety Initiatives- Reducing Impaired Driving

## New 0% BAC restriction on all drivers under 21

- Implemented June 1, 2009
- All drivers 21 years and younger
- Includes drivers of all vehicles licensed under the *Motor Vehicle Act*

# Highway Safety Initiatives- Reducing Impaired Driving

## Short – Term Licence Suspension

- Bill 54 introduced April, 2010
- Blood alcohol between 0.05% and 0.08%
- Increases from 24 hours to 7 days duration of licence suspension

# Highway Safety Initiatives – Booster Seats

## Booster Seats

- Implemented May 1, 2008
- Drivers ensure all children in their vehicle are properly secured in a child seat until the child reaches at least one of the following:
  1. nine (9) years of age;
  2. 36 kilograms (79 lbs) in weight; or
  3. 145 centimetres (57 inches) in height
- When one of these criteria has been met by the child, child restraint system no longer required.

# Highway Safety Initiatives - Seatbelts

February 1st, 2008: Increase from one-point penalty to 2-points penalty for failure of driver to wear a seatbelt.

# Highway Safety Initiatives – School and Construction Zones

October, 2007: Doubling of Fines in Posted School and Construction Zones

# Highway Safety Initiatives – Graduated Drivers Licence

GDL - Level 1	
<b>Minimum Age</b>	16 years (applicants under 18 years of age must have consent that must be witnessed by a non-relative)
<b>Requirements</b>	Successfully pass a vision screening (20/40 best eye) Successfully pass written, basic and sign tests
<b>Duration</b>	Minimum 12 months or 4 <i>months</i> if graduated from a recognized licensed driving school Minimum 12 months or 8 <i>months</i> ** if graduated from a recognized licensed driving school <b>(Effective October 1, 2009)</b>
<b>Class</b>	Class 7
<b>Blood Alcohol Level</b>	Zero
<b>Accompanying Driver</b>	One person who has a Class 5 or better licence, <i>a minimum of 3 years driving experience*</i> , and who is in the front passenger seat
<b>Driving Hours</b>	<i>Prohibited from driving between midnight and 5:00 a.m.*</i>
<b>Passengers</b>	No passengers allowed except the accompanying driver
<b>Exit Requirements</b>	Successfully passes road test to advance to Level 2

- As of June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2009 the Government of New Brunswick implemented new requirements to the graduated driver's licence program.

# Highway Safety Initiatives – Graduated Drivers Licence

GDL - Level 2	
<b>Minimum Age</b>	16 years + 4 months or 17 years (if no driver training course) 16 years + 8 months** or 17 years (if no driver training course) (Effective October 1, 2009)
<b>Requirement</b>	Successful completion of Level 1 and road test
<b>Duration</b>	Minimum 12 months If Level 2 is entered early as a result of a driver training course, the balance of the 24 month graduated period is spent in this level Total time in GDL Program: 2 years (minimum)
<b>Class</b>	Class 7
<b>Blood Alcohol Level</b>	Zero
<b>Driving Hours</b>	<i>If under 21, prohibited from driving between midnight and 5:00 a.m. unless accompanied by a licensed driver (Class 5 or better) with at least 3 years driving experience. No other passengers are permitted.</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Automatic exemption granted for work and education</li> <li>• Written application to the Registrar of Motor Vehicles required for other purposeful activities to obtain exemption*</li> </ul>
<b>Passengers</b>	<i>No more than 3 passengers, with only one in the front seat *</i>
<b>Exit Requirement</b>	Learner's licence without interruption for previous 24 months with at least 12 months in Stage 2 to advance to Class 5. No road test is required to obtain Class 5 Licence; however, it is the responsibility of the driver to apply for a Class 5 Licence upon completion of a Class 7 Graduated Licence (Level 2).

# Highway Safety Initiatives – National Safety Code

## National Safety Code

- The National Safety Code (NSC) is a set of uniform, national safety standards for large commercial vehicles. The standards also apply to buses capable of carrying 10 + passengers (including the driver).
  - Removes unsafe vehicles from the highways and reduces highway damage.
- Some of the NSC standards include:
- Driver Examiner Training Program
  - Medical Standards for Drivers
  - Carrier and Driver Profile
  - Short Term Suspensions
  - Hours of Service Regulations
  - Security of Loads
  - Commercial Vehicle Maintenance
  - On-Road Inspections
  - Trip Inspection
  - Safety Rating

# Highway Safety Initiatives – National Safety Code

- The Motor Vehicle Branch:
  - Conducts on-site audits and investigations of carrier records and inspection of vehicles;
  - provides extensive information and guidance to carriers with respect to NSC;
  - Meets with the carrier industry annually.

## Hours of Service

- The new standard regarding Hours of Service was adopted by New Brunswick and has been in place since June 30, 2007. The standard describes the number of hours a commercial driver can be on duty and operate a commercial vehicle. It outlines the requirements to complete daily logs, describes the various cycles of operation and sets out driver and carrier record keeping requirements.

# Highway Safety Initiatives

## Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Branch (CVE)

- While the Motor Vehicle Branch is responsible for commercial roadside inspections within the National Safety Code standards, the program is carried out by the Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Branch.
- The Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Branch of the Department of Public Safety is responsible
  - enhancing public safety on provincial highways;
  - reducing highway damage caused by overweight vehicles;
  - providing a unified approach to commercial vehicle enforcement.

# Off-Road Vehicle Safety Initiative

## Off-Road Vehicle Enforcement Unit

- Implemented March 2008
- A dozen officers located in six areas throughout the province;
- Responsibilities include:
  - the enforcement of the *Off-Road Vehicle Act* and regulations, as well as offences under the *Criminal Code* pertaining to the operation of off-road vehicles.
  - work closely with off-road vehicle organizations, stakeholders and operators in the delivery of public education to promote safe and lawful practices in the sport.

# Off-Road Vehicle Safety Initiative

## Appropriate Off-Road Vehicles and Closed Courses

- New guidelines for the operation of an off-road vehicle by persons under the age of 16 were implemented DATE (May 1, 2009).
- Children between 6 and 13 restricted to operating age-appropriate off-road vehicles **ONLY** on closed courses approved by the Registrar of Motor Vehicles.
- Off-road vehicle users aged **14 and 15** must also operate age-appropriate off-road vehicles, but are **not restricted** to riding only on closed courses.
- Persons under 16 must have appropriate training;
- Persons under 16 must be supervised **AND** accompanied in clear view by a person 19 years of age or older who has completed an approved safety training course.
- The supervising adult must carry at all times a training certificate issued by a trainer authorized by the Registrar of Motor Vehicles.

# Off-Road Vehicle Safety Initiative

## Comparison of Age-Appropriate Off-Road Vehicles

	Under supervision on a closed course (ONLY)		Under supervision (generally)
	6-11	12-13	14-15
<b>ATV</b>	Cannot exceed 70cc	Cannot exceed 90cc	Cannot exceed 90cc
<b>Snowmobile</b>	Cannot exceed 120cc	Cannot exceed 340cc	Cannot exceed 340cc
<b>Dirt Bike</b>	Cannot exceed 120cc  The operator must be able to touch the balls of both feet on the ground when straddling the seat.	Cannot exceed 150cc  The operator must be able to touch the balls of both feet on the ground when straddling the seat.	Cannot exceed 230cc  The operator must be able to touch the balls of both feet on the ground when straddling the seat.

*The vehicles noted above are the ONLY off-road vehicles that persons under the age of 16 are allowed to operate.*

# Off-Road Vehicle Safety Initiative

## Age-based requirements at a glance

Age	Safety training course?	Closed Course?	Age-appropriate vehicle?	Supervised?
6 to 13	Yes (except dirt bikes)	Yes	Yes	Yes (but no training requirement in the case of dirt bikes)
14 and 15	Yes (except dirt bikes)	Not required	Yes	Yes (but no training requirement in the case of dirt bikes)

# Under Review

## Trip Inspection Regulations

- New Trip Inspection regulation is being drafted.

## Driver Distraction

- The Department is currently engaged in a wide consultation that will be completed this summer. DPS will be making recommendations to Government later this year.

# Partnerships

American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators (AAMVA)

Canadian Council of Motor Transport Administrators (CCMTA)

The Traffic Injury Research Foundation

Working Group on Trucking Services Improvements

New Brunswick Highway Safety Committee

# Upcoming Events

## CCMTA and AAMVA Annual Conferences

- New Brunswick will host both the CCMTA and AAMVA annual conferences this year.

Highway Safety ... | La sécurité routière,  
From Sea To Sea To Sea | D'un océan aux autres



**American Association of  
Motor Vehicle Administrators**  
Associate Member