

Decision

The commissioner will render a written decision following the hearing. This decision may impose one or more conditions designed to correct the driver's deficient conduct. An example of such a decision would be the obligation to follow a defensive driving course.

In truly serious cases, namely where the commissioner does not believe that imposing conditions would correct a driver's deficient conduct, he can order the Société to prohibit him from driving a heavy vehicle.



Following up on imposed conditions

The Commission follows up on imposed conditions in several ways:

- A driver subject to such conditions must show the Commission that he has complied with these conditions within the specified timeframe.
- A driver who fails to comply with imposed conditions could be prohibited from driving a heavy vehicle.

A driver who has been prohibited from driving a heavy vehicle and who wishes to regain his privileges in this regard must obtain a favourable decision from the Commission.



*When you drive a heavy vehicle...
obey the regulations!*

For more information

Regarding the Commission des transports du Québec's actions in connection with drivers of heavy vehicles:

Commission des transports du Québec
Montréal area: 514 873-6424
Elsewhere: 1 888 461-2433
www.ctq.gouv.qc.ca

Regarding driver records and the Conduct review policy for heavy vehicle drivers:

Société de l'assurance automobile du Québec
Québec: 418 643-7620
Montréal: 514 873-7620
Elsewhere: 1 800 361-7620
www.saaq.gouv.qc.ca

Drivers of heavy vehicles

Obey the regulations

The Commission des transports du Québec can convene you to a hearing



Driving a heavy vehicle is a demanding job

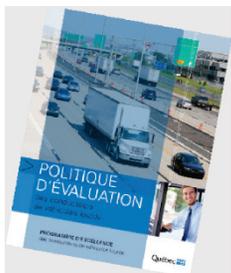
You must conduct yourself in a safe manner, making sure to comply with traffic regulations as well as the regulations governing transportation by means of heavy vehicles. The Commission des transports du Québec can convene you to a hearing should your conduct constitute a risk in terms of highway safety.



Policy for reviewing the conduct of drivers of heavy vehicles

The Société de l'assurance automobile du Québec (Société) has introduced a policy for reviewing drivers of heavy vehicles. This policy applies to all drivers who hold a license issued by the Société and who drive a heavy vehicle licensed in Québec anywhere in Canada.

The policy seeks to identify those drivers who represent the greatest risk and to quickly take steps to modify their conduct and help them adopt safer driving habits.



The Société keeps files on drivers of heavy vehicles for this very purpose. The file or record of any given driver includes the details of all events having occurred during the past two years while the driver was at the wheel of a heavy vehicle. It can include information regarding:

- traffic violations (e.g., speeding), offences as regards driving hours and rest periods, circle checks and stowage and loads;
- driver out-of-service orders;
- highway accidents;
- driving while under the influence of alcohol and related events (over the past ten years).



Whenever the events noted in a driver's file attest to a conduct likely to constitute a risk in terms of highway safety, the Société sends a letter to the driver so advising him. If the situation deteriorates over time, the Société, as per the criteria laid out in its policy, transmits the relevant details to the Commission des transports du Québec.

Commission actions

Gathering information

A Commission inspector reviews the contents of the driver record submitted by the Société. He may also contact the driver to obtain further details on the events included in the file as well as on his training, driving experience and knowledge of the obligations of drivers of heavy vehicles.

The inspector's findings are recorded in a report that is subsequently transferred to an attorney for analysis prior to a hearing.

Hearing in front of a commissioner

The driver is then convened, in writing, to a hearing in front of a commissioner. The driver must be physically present for this hearing and may choose to be accompanied by an attorney who will represent him. If the driver fails to attend the scheduled hearing, the commissioner will render a decision based solely on the contents of the driver's file.

The driver must prepare himself for the hearing by:

- carefully reading all of the documents sent to him by the Commission;
- preparing all of the information that he wishes to share with the commissioner.

During the hearing, the driver may submit his observations and call any witnesses to speak on his behalf. He can also explain the circumstances surrounding the events included in his driving record and add any details he feels may be important.

The commissioner, based on the available information, determines whether the driver's conduct constitutes a risk in terms of highway safety. If this is the case, he also identifies measures to improve the driver's conduct.

