

Prospective Motorcycle Operator

2011 Edition



Québec 

Important

To **properly prepare for and pass** your driving course and the knowledge and road tests, the Société de l'assurance automobile du Québec (SAAQ) recommends that you:

- **Study** the following manuals (on sale at Publications du Québec. You can buy directly from their Web site, or at bookstores):
 - Driver's Handbook;
 - Operating a Motorcycle.
- **Read** the *Accompanying Rider's Guide on a Motorcycle*, available free of charge in SAAQ service centres or online at www.saaq.gouv.qc.ca, and give it to the rider who will be helping you practise on the road.
- **Check** your knowledge about driving an automobile with our online test at www.saaq.gouv.qc.ca

This will help you increase your knowledge and your chances of success.

Getting a licence is serious business!

Prospective Motorcycle Operator

The roadmap for future motorcycle operators

Since operating a motorcycle involves its own set of challenges, it is very important that riders acquire the knowledge and develop the skills required to handle this type of vehicle before riding on the road.

All prospective motorcycle operators must first pass a knowledge test in order to get a Class 6R learner's licence, which is valid only for the purposes of a driving course and for the SAAQ closed track road test. After holding a Class 6R licence for at least one month, learners must pass a driving course on operating a motorcycle, which includes a theoretical and two practical components, and pass the closed-track test. Only then are prospective motorcycle operators issued a Class 6A learner's licence, which must be held for at least 11 months, allowing them to practise with an accompanying rider on another motorcycle. The last step is a road test, which prospective operators must pass in order to obtain a probationary or regular licence to operate a motorcycle.

The probationary licence is valid for 24 months and is intended for motorcycle operators who do not hold a passenger vehicle driver's licence (Class 5). If a new driver accumulates 4 demerit points, the learner's licence or probationary licence is revoked for a minimum period of three months. In addition, under the *Highway Safety Code*, holders of these licences are prohibited from driving after drinking alcohol (zero alcohol).

Carefully read this brochure to find out how to get a driver's licence for a motorcycle.

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This is not a legal text. For any question of a legal nature,
please refer to the *Highway Safety Code* and its attendant regulations.

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Société de l'assurance automobile du Québec
Direction des communications

Licence classes

Depending on the cylinder capacity of the motorcycle you want to ride, you must hold a driver's licence with one of the following classes:

- Class 6A:
all motorcycles;
- Class 6B:
motorcycles with a cylinder capacity of 400 cc or less;
- Class 6C:
motorcycles with a cylinder capacity of 125 cc or less.

To get a Class 6A, 6B or 6C licence, you must go through a series of steps and meet the requirements set out for each class.

Minimum age

To obtain a licence, you must:

- be at least 16 years old;
- have the written consent of a person having parental authority if you are under age 18.

Theory

Your first step is to learn driving theory about operating a motorcycle. The *Highway Safety Code*, road signs and traffic signals as well as driving techniques are all part of the basic knowledge required before moving on to the practical part of the training.

Learner's licence (Class 6R)

First, you must get a learner's licence (Class 6R). This licence allows you to operate any motorcycle, but only for the purposes of a driving course or for an SAAQ closed track test.

To get this licence, you must first pass the SAAQ's knowledge test. It is therefore recommended to take the theoretical part of the driving course before taking the knowledge test to obtain a Class 6R learner's licence.

Choosing a driving school

For information on recognized driving schools, contact:

■ Association québécoise du transport et des routes

1255, rue University, bureau 210
Montréal (Québec) H3B 3B2

Montréal: 514 595-9110
Web site: www.aqtr.qc.ca

To register for the knowledge test

You can register for the knowledge test online at www.saaq.gouv.qc.ca or by using our automated telephone service. You must then go to the selected SAAQ service centre to take the test. You can call one of the following numbers to make an appointment and register for the test:

- In Québec
(city and vicinity) 418 643-5213
- In Montréal 514 873-5803
- From elsewhere
in Québec 1 888 667-8687

On the day of the knowledge test

To obtain your learner's licence (Class 6R), you must meet the following requirements:

- Show proof of identity:
 - **If you hold a probationary licence, a driver's licence or an identity card issued by the SAAQ**, show this piece of identification (it's the quickest way to prove your identity).
 - **If you don't hold a Québec licence with photo**, show two pieces of identification, including one with photo, from among the following:

◆ 1st piece

If you were born in Québec:

- the original of your birth certificate issued by the registrar of civil status (Directeur de l'état civil) after January 1, 1994 (a certificate of birth issued by a parish or by the Ministère de la Justice is not accepted),
- a Canadian passport,
- a Canadian Armed Forces identity card,
- a Certificate of Indian Status;

If you were born elsewhere:

- the original of a birth certificate issued by a Canadian province or territory,
- a Canadian Citizenship Certificate with photo,
- confirmation of permanent residence and a Permanent Resident Card,
- other proof of legal presence in Canada;

◆ 2nd piece

- your Health Insurance Card,
- a licence authorizing you to drive a road vehicle.

- If you are under age 18, provide the written consent of a person having parental authority.
- Complete the SAAQ's *Declaration of Illness or Impairment* form.
- Pass the SAAQ's vision test.
- Pay the required amounts either in cash, by cheque* or with a debit card (except in mobile service units) to cover:
 - the test fee;
 - the licence issue fees.

*Prepare two separate cheques.

- Pass the knowledge test, which consists of 64 multiple-choice questions,

OR

- if you already hold a Class 5 probationary licence or driver's licence, pass the section on the techniques for operating a motorcycle, which consists of 32 questions.

The passing mark is 85% for the section on the techniques for operating a motorcycle and 75% for the section on the *Highway Safety Code* and the section on road signs and traffic signals.


The purpose of this test is to assess your knowledge of traffic rules, as well as the techniques involved in operating a motorcycle. You must show that you know what to do in a driving situation.

If you fail, you only have to retake the section(s) you did not pass. However, you must wait at least 28 days before retaking the test.

Practice at a driving course

With a learner's licence (Class 6R), you can learn the knowledge and develop the skills required to operate a motorcycle on a closed track or on the road, but only as part of the mandatory driving course or at the SAAQ closed track road test. You will therefore practise operating a motorcycle for the first time at a driving course.

Helmet use is mandatory. We also recommend that you wear a helmet with a face shield, or with goggles if there is no face shield. Clothing designed for motorcycle riding is also required including gloves, a long-sleeved jacket and long pants made of leather or an anti-abrasion material such as Kevlar or Cordura, as well as boots or sturdy shoes.



Learner's licence (Class 6A)

After holding a learner's licence (Class 6R) for at least one month, and passing a driving course that includes a theoretical part and two practical parts, one on a closed track and another on the road, you must pass the closed track test to be issued a learner's licence (Class 6A). This licence authorizes you to operate any motorcycle on the road, providing you are accompanied by a rider on another motorcycle.

Closed track test

To get a learner's licence (Class 6A), you must:

- have held a learner's licence (Class 6R) for at least one month;
- have passed a driving course with a driving school recognized by the Association québécoise du transport et des routes (AQTR);
- make an appointment for a closed track test with the SAAQ, indicating the learner's licence (Class 6R) file number (shown under *N^o de dossier*);
- pass the SAAQ closed track test.

This test is designed to assess your skills in carrying out the manoeuvres and applying the rules involved in operating a motorcycle on a closed track.

The appointment

Remember to bring:

- your learner's licence;
- one of the pieces of identification that was required on the day of the knowledge test;
- a duly completed certificate issued by a driving school attesting that you successfully completed a driving course;
- a new written authorization signed by the person having parental authority if you are under age 18;
- a valid and signed registration certificate and proof of liability insurance for the motorcycle you will be using during the closed track test;
- payment in cash, by cheque* or with a debit card (except in mobile service units) to cover the cost of:
 - the test fee;
 - the licence issue fee.

*Prepare two separate cheques.

If you must cancel your appointment, please notify the SAAQ at least 48 hours ahead of time, or charges will apply.

In case of bad weather, please check to make sure your appointment has not been cancelled.

The motorcycle used for the closed track test

The SAAQ will not provide you with a motorcycle for the test. You must report to your closed track test with a motorcycle that is in good mechanical condition and registered for use on the public roadway. Off-road motorcycles, those with a side-car or three and four-wheelers will not be accepted.

If you are renting a vehicle, you must have with you the rental contract or payment receipt.

If you are not the owner of the motorcycle you will be using, it must have a cylinder capacity of more than 400 cc (corresponding to licence Class 6A) to be accepted for the test. If you are the owner, you may use a motorcycle with a lower cylinder capacity for the closed track test.

Regardless of which motorcycle is used for the closed track test, you will not be allowed to have a passenger riding on the vehicle.

Motorcycle components checked by the SAAQ

- headlight(s), high beams and low beams;
- turn-signal lights;
- rear light/reflector;
- brake lights;
- brakes;
- tires;
- speedometer;
- footrests;
- muffler(s);
- rearview mirrors;
- horn;
- seat, fenders, chain guard;
- fuel tank;
- windshield, if any.

If the inspection reveals that the motorcycle is not in good mechanical condition, the closed track test will be cancelled. You must then make a new appointment.

The assessment

The closed track test consists of a 10-step assessment of your ability to operate a motorcycle and carry out the following manoeuvres:

- starting and moving forward;
- taking a sharp curve;
- accelerating in a curve;
- slowing down in a curve;
- stopping normally;
- choosing speed in a curve;
- emergency braking in a straight line;
- going around an obstacle;
- emergency braking in a turn;
- riding in circles.

During the test, the examiner will give you specific instructions. No statement will be made to trick or entrap you. If you do not understand the instructions, you may ask for clarification. You will not be asked to perform any manoeuvre that is dangerous or prohibited under the *Highway Safety Code*.

Once the test is over, the examiner will explain the results and indicate your strong points as well as the areas where there could be improvement, even if you passed.

If you fail the test

The closed track test passing mark is 75%. If you fail the closed track test, you must wait 14 days before trying again, in which case you will have to make another appointment with the SAAQ.

Learner's licence restrictions

This licence, which you must hold for at least 11 months, comes with the following restrictions:

- You are prohibited from carrying passengers;
- You are required to operate your motorcycle with an accompanying rider.

In addition, if you don't hold a passenger vehicle driver's licence (Class 5), the following restrictions apply:

- When **4 demerit points** or more are entered on your driving record, your licence is revoked for at least 3 months;
- You are prohibited from driving after consuming alcohol.

Practice on the road with an accompanying rider

With a learner's licence (Class 6A), you can learn the knowledge and skills required to operate a motorcycle on the road. You should put in as much practice time as possible on the road. However, you are required to always have an accompanying rider who has held a valid driver's licence authorizing the operation of a motorcycle for at least two years, and who is qualified to provide you with help and advice. The holder of a probationary licence cannot serve as an accompanying rider.

Helmet use is mandatory. We also recommend that you wear a helmet with a face shield, or with goggles if there is no face shield. Clothing designed for motorcycle riding is also required including gloves, a long-sleeved jacket and long pants made of leather or an anti-abrasion material such as Kevlar or Cordura, as well as boots or sturdy shoes.

The road test

To get a probationary licence (or a driver's licence if you already hold a Class 5 driver's licence), you must:

- have held a learner's licence (Class 6A) for at least 11 months;
- make an appointment for a road test with the SAAQ, indicating the learner's licence file number (shown under *N° de dossier*);
- pass the SAAQ road test.

This test is designed to assess your skills in carrying out the manoeuvres and applying the rules for operating a motorcycle on the road.

The appointment

Remember to bring:

- your learner's licence;
- one of the pieces of identification required on the day of the knowledge test;
- a new written authorization signed by the person having parental authority if you are under age 18;
- a valid and signed registration certificate and proof of liability insurance for the motorcycle you will be using during the road test;
- payment in cash, by cheque* or with a debit card (except in mobile service units) to cover the cost of:
 - the test fee;
 - the licence issue fee.

*Prepare two separate cheques.

If you must cancel your appointment, please notify the SAAQ at least 48 hours ahead of time, or charges will apply.

In case of bad weather, please check to make sure your appointment has not been cancelled.

The motorcycle used for the road test

The motorcycle requirements for the closed track test also apply to the road test, with the exception that the cylinder capacity must match the class of probationary licence or driver's licence sought (Class 6A, 6B or 6C).

Motorcycle components checked by the SAAQ

The SAAQ will inspect the same components as for the closed track test.

The assessment

The examiner observes and takes note of your:

- driving skills in carrying out commonly-executed manoeuvres;
- observance of traffic rules and safe riding techniques;
- motorcycle control skills;
- behaviour on the motorcycle.

The road test consists of an 11-step assessment of your ability to handle a motorcycle in common situations.

The examiner will score your ability to carry out each of the following manoeuvres:

- turning at an intersection;
- changing lanes;
- riding in a straight line;
- stopping at an intersection;
- crossing an intersection;
- parking on a roadside;
- riding in a curve;
- entering a highway;
- riding on a highway;
- exiting a highway;
- merging with traffic.

Before the test, the examiner will inform you about the test procedure. You will be asked to wear a vest displaying the words “Examen moto SAAQ”. This vest is provided by the SAAQ.

During the test, the examiner will use a wireless communication device and limit conversation to giving directions and specific test instructions, so as to avoid disturbing your concentration. No statement will be made to trick or entrap you. You will be provided with a hearing device to receive instructions. You will not be asked to perform any manoeuvre that is dangerous or prohibited under the *Highway Safety Code*.

The examiner follows in an automobile driven by an assistant. This vehicle is equipped with a sign displaying the words “Examen moto SAAQ”.

Once the road test is over, the examiner will explain the results and point out your strong points as well as the areas where there could be improvement, even if you passed.

To pass the road test, you must:

- ride without committing an offence under the *Highway Safety Code*;
- show safe riding behaviour at all times;
- obtain a mark of at least 75%.

If you fail the test

You must wait at least 56 days before trying again, in which case you will be required to make another appointment with the SAAQ.



Probationary licence

The last step for drivers who do not hold a passenger vehicle driver's licence (Class 5)

After passing the road test, you qualify for a probationary licence. However, if you already hold a passenger vehicle driver's licence (Class 5), you can get your motorcycle driver's licence immediately after passing the road test.

Probationary licence restrictions

The probationary licence, which is valid for 24 months, is issued with the following restrictions:

- When **4 demerit points** or more are entered on your driving record, your licence is revoked for a minimum period of 3 months;
- You are prohibited from driving after consuming any alcohol;
- You are prohibited from serving as an accompanying rider to assist a learner driver of a road vehicle.

Zero alcohol for new drivers

Holders of a learner's licence or probationary licence who do not already hold a regular passenger vehicle driver's licence (Class 5) commit an offence if they drive after consuming alcohol. Violation of the zero alcohol rule results in an immediate 90-day licence suspension.

Offenders who are subsequently convicted will have 4 demerit points entered on their driving record. As a result, their licence will be suspended for an additional three months and they will receive a fine of \$300 to \$600*.

The 90-day suspension period and the 3-month revocation period are added to the remaining learning or probationary period.

Moreover, drivers who are convicted of driving with a blood-alcohol level in excess of 80 mg per 100 ml of blood (.08) commit an offence under the *Criminal Code*.

*In addition to the fine, costs include registry fees, subject to change, set according to the Tariff of court costs in penal matters, as well as a contribution to the crime victim compensation plan provided under the *Code of Penal Procedure*.

Demerit points

The SAAQ enters demerit points on the records of licence holders who commit certain offences under the *Highway Safety Code*.

Learner's licence or probationary licence holders

For probationary licence holders, once 4 demerit points or more are entered on their driving record, their licence is revoked for a minimum period of 3 months. The same applies to holders of a motorcycle learner's licence who do not already hold a passenger vehicle driver's licence (Class 5).

The revocation period is added to the number of months remaining to complete the learning or probationary period.

To get a new learner's licence or probationary licence after the penalty period has ended, you are required to:

- call the SAAQ to make an appointment at one of our service centres before the end of the penalty period;
- pass the reinstatement knowledge test;
- pay the test and licence fees.

Example

You have held a probationary licence for 15 months. You therefore have 9 months to go before the 24-month probationary period ends. If 4 demerit points are entered on your driving record as a result of an offence, your licence is revoked for 3 months.

After the penalty period had ended and the procedure to get a new licence has been completed, you will be issued a new probationary licence, valid for 9 months.

Driver's licence holders

The following demerit point brackets apply to driver's licence holders according to their age as follows:

- Holders under age 23 The licence is revoked when 8 demerit points or more are entered on their driving record.
- Holders age 23 and 24 The licence is revoked when 12 demerit points or more are entered on their driving record.
- Holders age 25 or older The licence is revoked when 15 demerit points or more are entered on their driving record.

The minimum licence revocation period is 3 months. It could be as much as 6 or 12 months depending on the number of points entered for a single offence, or if the licence had already been revoked in the past.

Individuals who have their licence revoked are no longer allowed to drive during the penalty period. If they do not hold a licence, their right to obtain one is suspended.



Your insurance policy...

... for bodily injury

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

Coverage for all Quebecers

The Québec plan is based on four main principles:

1. Protection for all Quebecers, wherever they are

All residents of Québec qualify for the protection offered by the public automobile insurance plan, regardless of where the accident occurs in the world. The plan provides compensation for injuries resulting from an accident involving an automobile, regardless of whether the person was a driver, a passenger, a pedestrian, a cyclist or riding a motorcycle

2. No-fault compensation

Since the plan's inception, Quebecers have been compensated for bodily injury sustained in an automobile accident, without it being necessary to determine liability. As a result, civil lawsuits have been abolished and replaced by the right to compensation for all Quebecers. Nevertheless, anyone who drives dangerously or commits a traffic offence is still liable to prosecution.

3. **Compensation for economic loss**

SAAQ indemnity payments are mainly intended to compensate an accident victim for actual accident-related economic loss. This may take the form of an income replacement indemnity, or a lump sum for a delay in studies. The SAAQ also reimburses certain accident-related expenses such as the cost of prescription medication.

An accident victim left with permanent after-effects of injury may also qualify for a lump-sum indemnity, based on the severity of injuries.

4. **Indexation of indemnities**

To ensure that compensated victims maintain their purchasing power, the gross income amount which is used to calculate the income replacement indemnity is indexed every year on the anniversary date of the accident. All other amounts prescribed by the *Automobile Insurance Act* are indexed every year on the first of January.

Plan contributions

Driver's licence holders and owners of vehicles registered in Québec pay for the indemnities awarded through the public automobile insurance plan. These indemnities are paid directly from the contributions collected from the driver's licence and registration certificate issue and renewal fees.

... 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. Policies providing this third-party coverage, covering property damage caused by the vehicle to another party, are offered by private insurance providers. Under the *Highway Safety Code*, you must have the following documents with you whenever you drive:

- your driver's licence;
- the vehicle's registration certificate;
- the vehicle owner's proof of liability insurance coverage.

Consent of a Person Having Parental Authority

To be completed by the SAAQ

Date:	Année	Mois	Jour	
N.I.:				

This form must be completed and signed by the father, mother, or legal guardian of a minor applying for vehicle registration or a licence to drive.

I, the undersigned...

Father, mother or legal guardian

Last name:
First name:
Address:
If you hold a driver's licence, enter the licence number:

... consent to the Société de l'assurance automobile du Québec issuing a licence to drive to:

Minor

Last name:				
First name:				
Date of birth:	Year	Month	Day	

Signature of the father, mother, or legal guardian:				
Date:	Year	Month	Day	



Protection of personal information

All information gathered by authorized Société de l'assurance automobile du Québec personnel is handled confidentially. The Société requires this personal information to apply 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 Société's part. Individuals may consult or correct any personal information concerning them held in Société records.

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

Checklist

Remember to bring the following with you to the closed track test or the road test:

- your learner's licence;
- one of the pieces of identification required on the day of the knowledge test;
- a new written authorization signed by a person having parental authority if you are under age 18;
- a valid and signed registration certificate and proof of liability insurance for the motorcycle you will be using for the closed track or road test. Check the liability insurance expiry date and make sure that the vehicle serial number that appears on the liability insurance document is the same as the one shown on the registration certificate;
- payment for the cost of the test and issue of the licence sought.

My closed track test appointment is:

on:
at:

My road test appointment is:

on:
at:

For more information

www.saaq.gouv.qc.ca

By telephone	
■ In Québec (city and vicinity)	418 643-7620
■ In Montréal	514 873-7620
■ Toll free, from elsewhere (Québec, Canada, USA)	1 800 361-7620

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Québec

