



Upcoming Road Safety Changes in Ontario

[Please click here to see the notice of upcoming enforcement](#) with respect to impairment and commercial drivers. Additional details are in the attached and below are some key highlights.

Highlights in the notice include:

Measures that will take effect July 1, 2018

Impaired Driving:

- Zero tolerance sanctions prohibiting drivers of commercial vehicles from having the presence of a drug or alcohol in their body, as detected by a federally approved oral fluid screening device or an approved alcohol breath screening device.
 - Applies to commercial vehicles defined as:
 - a vehicle requiring a A, B, C, D, E, or F licence to operate;
 - a road building machine;
 - a vehicle that requires a Commercial Vehicle Operator's Registration (CVOR).
 - **NOTE:** As stated above, zero tolerance sanctions for drugs will be effective as of July 1, 2018 but will be enforced once approved drug screening equipment has been authorized in federal legislation.
- Commercial drivers will be subject to mandatory remedial education or treatment programs; and, ignition interlock (II) requirements for repeat occurrences.
 - Medical cannabis users may be exempted from zero tolerance sanctions if a police officer is satisfied that they are legally authorized to use drugs for medical purposes; however, these drivers can still face penalties or criminal charges if a police officer determines that their ability to drive has been impaired.

Vulnerable Road User Safety:

- Flashing blue lights will be permitted for enforcement and emergency vehicles that are already permitted to use red flashing lights.

- MTO will be increasing the maximum fine under the HTA's general penalty provision from \$500 to \$1000.

Measures that will take effect September 1, 2018

Vulnerable Road User Safety:

- Increased penalties for all drivers who fail to yield for pedestrians at crosswalks, crossovers and school crossings and escalating fines.

Measures that will take effect January 1, 2019

Impaired Driving:

- Increased administrative monetary penalties (AMPs) for all alcohol and drug impaired drivers and ensure that drivers pay an AMP and a licence reinstatement fee.
 - Escalating AMPs will apply along with a \$198 license reinstatement fee for short-term licence suspensions (3, 7, or 30 days):
 - \$250 for a first occurrence.
 - \$350 for a second occurrence.
 - \$450 for a third occurrence.
 - \$550 AMP will apply along with a \$198 license reinstatement fee for long-term licence suspensions (90 days).

Distracted Driving:

- Tougher penalties for distracted driving, including escalating fines, demerit points and licence suspensions. Demerit points will now escalate for a second offence from three to six demerit points.

If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to reach out to me.

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