

Road User Safety Division

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Division de Sécurité Routière

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MEMORANDUM TO: Richard Stubbings
Assistant Deputy Minister
Public Safety Division and Public Safety Training Division
Ministry of the Solicitor General

FROM: Nosa Ero-Brown
Assistant Deputy Minister (A)
Road User Safety Division
Ministry of Transportation

RE: **COVID-19 - Extension of the Expiry of Driver, Vehicle
and Carrier Products and Services - REVISION**

Please accept this as an update to the memorandum sent to Marc Bedard on March 19, 2020. New content has been highlighted in yellow for your awareness.

This memorandum is to advise you of the emergency measures that the Ministry of Transportation has taken in order to contain the spread of COVID-19.

New temporary regulations have been made under the *Highway Traffic Act*, *Photo Card Act*, *Environmental Protection Act*, and *Motorized Snow Vehicles Act* to extend the validity of the various driver, vehicle and carrier products that would have otherwise expired on or after March 1, 2020 until further notice.

Consequently, where a driver's licence or a vehicle permit appears to have expired it may in fact still be valid under the new temporary regulations. These may include:

- **The following vehicle products:**
 - All licence plate validation stickers
 - Online purchase receipts of validation stickers
 - Special Permits
 - International Registration Plan (IRP) Cab Cards

- Safety Standards Certificates, Structural Inspection Certificates
 - Extending the requirement to change address/vehicle modification within 6 days
 - Annual and Semi-Annual Inspections
- **The following driver products:**
 - All classes of Ontario driver's licences, including the temporary driver's licence and the Driving Instructor's licence
 - Medical Review Section of the Ministry of Transportation is also taking necessary steps to ensure if Ontarians required to submit a medical or vision report, the ministry will automatically extend the due date by 60 days or more
 - **The following carrier products:**
 - Under the temporary regulation, the ministry has extended the validity of all Commercial Vehicle Operator Registration (CVOR) certificates that expire on or after March 1, 2020, until further notice
 - The ministry is not currently processing any new CVOR applications. Clients are unable to operate without an approved CVOR
 - Annual Oversize/Overweight (O/O) Permits that expire on or after March 1, 2020 will be extended until further notice. Time sensitive critical O/O Single Trip permits will continue to be issued by the ministry

The ministry has extended the validity of all Ontario Photo Cards that expired on or after March 1, 2020 until further notice and the validity of the Enhanced Driver's Licence (EDL) for driving purposes only until further notice. Expired EDLs will not be valid as a travel document.

During this time period the Ministry is seeking police services' support to suspend enforcement of IRP requirements for out of province carriers. Commercial motor vehicles with no IRP credentials or expired ones will be permitted to operate in Ontario so long as they are legally permitted to operate in their home jurisdiction.

In addition, based on the advice of Ontario's Chief Medical Officer of Health to help contain the spread of COVID-19, all full-time DriveTest Centres and part-time Travel Point locations will be closed. The closures took effect March 23, 2020 until further notice.

For clarification, please be advised that the above-noted amendments apply to all police vehicles and drivers as well.

I would ask that you please bring this memorandum to the attention of the policing community. If services would like to discuss these amended programs, they may contact:

- For vehicle related enquiries, Elizabeth Marles, Manager, Vehicle Programs Office, at 416-235-3433 or Elizabeth.Marles@ontario.ca
- For Drivers' Licences or Temporary Drivers' Licence related enquiries, Kim MacCarl, Manager, Driver Programs Office, at 416-235-5248 or Kim.MacCarl@ontario.ca
- For carrier related enquiries, Jennifer Elliott, Manager, Licensing, Permits and Support Office, at 416-200-3107 or Jennifer.Elliott@ontario.ca
- For medical related enquiries, Frank Alulio, Manager, Medical Review Section at 416-235-5322 or frank.alulio@ontario.ca
- For driver control enquiries, Patricia Quattrocioni, Manager, Driver Control at 416-235-4937 or Patricia.Quattrocioni@ontario.ca

In addition, I would like to draw your attention to Appendix A, providing a reminder that the *Highway Traffic Act* provides exemptions for commercial drivers and operators providing direct assistance in support of relief efforts related to the COVID-19 outbreak.

Visit Ontario's [website](#) to learn more about how the province continues to protect Ontarians from COVID-19.

Thank you for your assistance in communicating these changes.



Nosa Ero-Brown
Assistant Deputy Minister (A)
Road User Safety Division

APPENDIX A

Hours of Service – subsection 3(1) of Ontario Regulation 555/06

The hours of service do not apply to a driver driving a:

4. A vehicle engaged in providing relief in an emergency, being a situation or impending situation that constitutes a danger of major proportions to life, property or the environment, whether caused by forces of nature, an accident, an intentional act or otherwise.

4.1 A vehicle operated by or on behalf of a municipality, road authority or public utility while responding to a situation or impending situation that constitutes an imminent danger, though not one of major proportions, to life, property or the environment, whether caused by forces of nature, an accident, an intentional act or otherwise.

Commercial Vehicle Inspections (Trip Inspections) – subsection 4(1) of Ontario Regulation 199/07

Subsections 107(4) to (12) (requirement to complete an inspection, inspection report, carry inspection schedule, reporting of defects, driving with major/minor defects) of the Act and Part II of this Regulation do not apply in respect of the following classes of vehicles, used in the following circumstances:

An emergency vehicle while responding to or returning from an emergency.

A commercial motor vehicle while providing relief from an earthquake, flood, fire, famine, drought, epidemic, pestilence or other disaster by transporting passengers or goods.

Speed Limiter – subsection 13(3) of Regulation 587

A commercial motor vehicle is exempt from subsection 68.1(1) of the Act if,

(b) it is engaged in providing relief in an emergency, being a situation or impending situation that constitutes a danger of major proportions to life, property or the environment, whether caused by forces of nature, an accident, an intentional act or otherwise; or

(c) it is operated by or on behalf of a municipality, road authority, public utility or of the government of Ontario or of Canada while responding to a situation or impending situation that constitutes an imminent danger, though not one of major proportions, to life, property or the environment, whether caused by forces of nature, an accident, an intentional act or otherwise.