

Regulations and other Acts

M.O., 2020

Order 2020-06 of the Minister of Transport dated 9 April 2020

Highway Safety Code
(chapter C-24.2)

Suspension of the requirement for a driver of a road train operating under a special road train operating permit to refrain from travelling on Good Friday and Easter Monday

THE MINISTER OF TRANSPORT,

CONSIDERING section 633.2 of the Highway Safety Code (chapter C-24.2), which provides that the Minister of Transport may, by order and after consultation with the Société de l'assurance automobile du Québec, suspend the application of a provision of the Code or the regulations for the period specified by the Minister, if the Minister considers that it is in the interest of the public and is not likely to compromise highway safety;

CONSIDERING section 633.2 of the Code, which provides that the publication requirement set out in section 8 of the Regulations Act (chapter R-18.1) does not apply to an order made under section 633.2;

CONSIDERING section 18 of the Regulations Act, which provides that a regulation may come into force on the date of its publication in the *Gazette officielle du Québec* where the authority making it is of the opinion that the urgency of the situation requires it and the reason justifying such coming into force must be published with the regulation;

CONSIDERING that it is appropriate to suspend the requirement for a driver of a road train operating under a special road train operating permit to refrain from travelling on Good Friday and Easter Monday;

CONSIDERING that the Minister considers that the suspension of that requirement is in the interest of the public and is not likely to compromise highway safety;

CONSIDERING that the Société de l'assurance automobile du Québec has been consulted regarding the suspension;

CONSIDERING that the Minister of Transport is of the opinion that the urgency to temporarily suspend for a driver of a road train operating under a special road

train operating permit the requirement to refrain from travelling on Good Friday and Easter Monday is due in particular to the following circumstances and justifies a coming into force on the date of its publication in the *Gazette officielle du Québec*:

— the Government declared, by Order in Council 177-2020 dated 13 March 2020, a public health emergency throughout Québec for a period of 10 days and, by Order in Council 222-2020 dated 20 March 2020, renewed the emergency to 29 March 2020, by Order in Council 388-2020 dated 29 March 2020, renewed it to 7 April 2020 and, by Order in Council 418-2020 dated 7 April 2020, renewed it to 16 April 2020 and took by those Orders in Council certain measures to protect the population;

— following that declaration, the Minister of Health and Social Services ordered, by Ministerial Orders 2020-003 dated 14 March 2020, 2020-004 dated 15 March 2020, 2020-005 dated 17 March 2020, 2020-006 dated 19 March 2020, 2020-007 dated 21 March 2020, 2020-008 dated 22 March 2020, 2020-009 dated 23 March 2020, 2020-010 dated 27 March 2020, 2020-011 dated 28 March 2020, 2020-012 dated 30 March 2020, 2020-013 dated 1 April 2020, 2020-014 dated 2 April 2020, 2020-015 dated 4 April 2020, 2020-016 dated 7 April 2020 and 2020-017 dated 8 April 2020, measures to protect the health of the population;

— among those measures to protect the health of the population, the Minister ordered in particular, by Ministerial Orders 2020-011 dated 28 March 2020, 2020-013 dated 1 April 2020, 2020-015 dated 4 April 2020 and 2020-016 dated 7 April 2020, that access to a number of health regions or parts of those regions be limited to certain persons;

— the Minister also ordered, by Ministerial Order 2020-012 dated 30 March 2020, that all retail commercial establishments be closed to the public on Sunday, except for pharmacies, convenience stores, service stations, restaurants for drive-through, take-out and delivery, as well as grocery stores for orders placed online or by telephone and delivery;

— the closure of retail commercial establishments on Sunday results in increased buying on Fridays, Saturdays and Mondays;

—the suspension of the requirement for drivers of a road train operating under a special road train operating permit to refrain from travelling on Good Friday and Easter Monday will facilitate and ensure the delivery of required goods to warehouses serving retail commercial establishments so that products are available on Good Friday and Easter Monday;

—the use of a road train also makes it possible to transport more food and essential products per trip thus reducing the number of trips for the same quantity of food or products thereby complying with the objective of reducing the number of persons travelling between health regions;

—those measures are therefore needed and urgent to ensure the safety of the population and to protect its health;

ORDERS AS FOLLOWS:

1. The requirement for a driver of a road train to refrain from travelling on Good Friday and Easter Monday provided for in paragraph 3 of section 9 of the Special Road Train Operating Permits Regulation (chapter C-24.2, r. 36) is hereby suspended.

2. This Order comes into force on the date of its publication in the *Gazette officielle du Québec*. It is revoked on 14 April 2020.

Québec, 9 April 2020

FRANÇOIS BONNARDEL,
Minister of Transport

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