## **Regulations and other Acts**

## M.O., 2023

## Order 2023-22 of the Minister of Transport and Sustainable Mobility dated 5 July 2023

Highway Safety Code (chapter C-24.2)

> Amendments to Ministerial Order 2023-07 (2023, G.O. 2, 277A) concerning the suspension of the requirement to hold a driver's licence issued by the Société de l'assurance automobile du Québec with respect to a person driving a passenger vehicle who holds a valid driver's licence issued by another administrative authority and who has settled in Québec more than 6 months ago

The Minister of Transport and Sustainable Mobility,

CONSIDERING section 633.2 of the Highway Safety Code (chapter C-24.2), according to which the Minister of Transport and Sustainable Mobility 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 that section 633.2 of the Code provides that the Minister may prescribe any rule, applicable when using the exemption, that ensures an equivalent level of safety in the Minister's opinion;

CONSIDERING that section 633.2 of the Code 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 Ministerial Order 2023-07 (2023, G.O. 2, 277A) concerning the suspension of the requirement to hold a driver's licence issued by the Société de l'assurance automobile du Québec with respect to a person driving a passenger vehicle who holds a valid driver's licence issued by another administrative authority and who has settled in Québec more than 6 months ago;

CONSIDERING that the Order suspends until 28 August 2023 inclusively, under certain conditions, the requirement provided for under section 65 of the Highway Safety Code to hold a driver's licence of the class appropriate to drive a passenger vehicle with respect to a person who has settled in Québec more than 6 months ago; CONSIDERING that, since the implementation of the digital transformation at the Société, an increased influx has been noted at its service centres;

CONSIDERING that, in the context of the transformation, a process was put in place at the Société in March 2023 to allow new residents of Québec to inform the Société of the date they settled in Québec and to know their needs so as to be able to prioritize the licence applications received;

CONSIDERING that the implementation of that process has shown that a larger number than expected of new residents have declared that they settled in Québec before 1 January 2023, which creates additional pressure on the traffic at service centres to prioritize processing within the current framework of that Order and requires that the processing of the applications of residents who have settled in Québec more recently be allocated differently over time;

CONSIDERING that the Minister considers that the amendments to that Order are in the interest of the public and are not likely to compromise highway safety;

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

## ORDERS AS FOLLOWS:

1. The title of Ministerial Order 2023-07 (2023, G.O. 2, 277A) concerning the suspension of the requirement to hold a driver's licence issued by the Société de l'assurance automobile du Québec with respect to a person driving a passenger vehicle who holds a valid driver's licence issued by another administrative authority and who has settled in Québec more than 6 months ago is amended by replacing "more than 6 months ago" by "until 28 August 2023 inclusively".

2. Section 1 of that Order is replaced by the following:

**"1.** The application of section 65 of the Highway Safety Code (chapter C-24.2) is suspended with respect to a person who holds a valid driver's licence issued by an administrative authority other than the Société de l'assurance automobile du Québec, who drives a passenger vehicle and who has settled in Québec

(1) before 1 January 2023, in which case the suspension applies until 30 November 2023 inclusively or until the date of the issue of a licence by the Société, whichever occurs first; or (2) during the period beginning on 1 January 2023 and ending on 28 August 2023 inclusively, in which case the suspension applies until the date that follows by 9 months the date on which the person settled in Québec or until the date of the issue of a licence by the Société, whichever occurs first.".

**3.** Section 2 of that Order is amended by replacing "29 August 2023" by "29 May 2024".

**4.** This Order comes into force on the fifteenth day following the date of its publication in the *Gazette* officielle du Québec.

Québec, 5 July 2023

GENEVIÈVE GUILBAULT Minister of Transport and Sustainable Mobility

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