



## The Highway Act by Doug Paterson, Q.C.

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Cars and trucks are essential to our economy and lifestyle. That's why the Provincial Highway Traffic Act is so important. It's a detailed piece of legislation and once we study for our driver's tests, most people forget about it. Here are some interesting tid-bits from the Act that don't often see the light of day:

1. An "emergency vehicle" may include vehicles to maintain public utilities – so if you see a working hydro truck on site, treat it like a fire-truck.
2. If a peace officer demands the registration card, it must be produced without delay. So have it in the vehicle always.
3. Because of the new red light cameras, it is illegal to drive any vehicle with the license plate number obstructed in any way, except if it is caused by towing a trailer or the like.
4. If you have possession of any motor vehicle where its identification number is not clearly visible on a permanent basis, you must report that fact to a local policeman.
5. If a person who deals with motor vehicles for a living has in his/her possession a motor vehicle where circumstances are suspicious, or there is evidence of theft, or it has been struck by a bullet, that person must immediately report these facts to a local police officer. Failure to make any of these reports will result in a fine of \$5,000.00 maximum.
6. Every motor vehicle except for motorcycles or similar units, must have at least 2 working headlamps and no more than 4. In addition though, a maximum of 2 fog lamps may be on the motor vehicle using either white or amber light.
7. No motor vehicle may be equipped with a siren or anything producing a similar sound.
8. Only a motor vehicle that was manufactured with tinted glass may use glass that restricts entry of light through the glass.
9. Every truck weighing over 6400 kg. must have on both sides of it a display of the owner's name and address or markings which clearly identify the owner i.e. logo.
10. No person may alter nor drive a motor vehicle where the height of the suspension has been changed from the height at time of manufacture.
11. All loads must be secured and covered so that no part of it falls to the roadway, except for snow, earth, or mud loads.
12. All moving trucks must have their tailgates up and fastened, except for over-length loads.
13. The distance between a towing vehicle and a towed vehicle must not exceed 5 meters.

Whewww! – This is a long Act – to be continued...