

**MEMORANDUM TO:** Stephen Beckett  
Assistant Deputy Minister  
Public Safety Division  
Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services

**FROM:** Kevin Byrnes  
Assistant Deputy Minister  
Road User Safety Division  
Ministry of Transportation

**Re:** **Recent Amendments to *Highway Traffic Act* Regulations and to the *Photo Card Act***

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The purpose of this memorandum is to advise the policing community about recent amendments to regulations under the *Highway Traffic Act* (HTA) and the *Photo Card Act*.

The four initiatives are set out in more detail below:

### 1. **Motorcycle Handlebar Height Restriction – Effective July 1, 2019**

- HTA Regulation 596 (General) - subsection 10(1) was amended to revoke the handlebar maximum height restriction of 380 millimetres and instead to permit motorcycle handlebars that are at the top of the operator's shoulders while seated.
- The short-form wording set out as items 7 and 8 of Schedule 50 to Regulation 950 (Proceedings Commenced by Certificate of Offence), made under the *Provincial Offences Act*, was amended to reflect this change, as set out below. There is no change to the set fine amount, which remains at \$85.

Item	Offence	Section	Set Fine
7.	<i>Motorcycle handlebars too high</i>	10(1)	\$85
8.	<i>Motor assisted bicycle handlebars too high</i>	10(1)	\$85

- Please contact Ryan Bailey at (416)-235-5407 or [Ryan.Bailey@ontario.ca](mailto:Ryan.Bailey@ontario.ca) if you have any questions about this change.

### 2. **Exempting Personal Use Pickup Trucks and Trailers from Annual Inspection – Effective July 1, 2019**

- HTA Regulation 611 (Safety Inspections), subsection 8 (9), was amended to exempt pickup trucks and trailers for personal use from the requirement for an annual inspection (both the inspection and displaying the yellow decal/sticker).
- A pickup truck and any trailer drawn by the pickup truck qualify for the exemption if:
  - The pickup truck and trailer are being used for personal use without compensation; and
  - The pickup truck and trailer are not carrying commercial tools or cargo, or equipment of a type normally used for commercial purposes.
- For the exemption to apply, the pickup truck must:
  - Have a manufacturer's Gross Vehicle Weight Rating (GVWR) of 6,500 kg or less and
  - Be fitted with either the original, unmodified box that was installed by the manufacturer or an unmodified replacement box that duplicates the one originally installed by the manufacturer.
- For consistency and clarity, the weight threshold for other exemptions already granted to personal-use pickup trucks under the HTA in respect of Commercial Vehicle Operator's Registration (CVOR), daily inspections, hours of service and class of driver's licence for towed house trailers is changed from 6,000 kg GVWR to 6,500 kg GVWR. This change was made to:
  - clause 1.2 (2) (a) of HTA O. Reg. 424/97 (Commercial Motor Vehicle Operators' Information),
  - clause 3 (4) (a) of HTA O. Reg. 555/06 (Hours of Service),
  - clause 1 (2) (a) of HTA O. Reg. 199/07 (Vehicle Inspections), and
  - clause 4 (1) (a) of HTA O. Reg. 340/94 (Driver's Licences)
- Please contact Susan Doleneć at (905) 704-2763 or [Susan.Doleneć@ontario.ca](mailto:Susan.Doleneć@ontario.ca) if you have any questions about this change.

### **3. Elimination of Special Vehicle Configuration Permits for Safe, Productive and Infrastructure Friendly (SPIF) Vehicles - Effective July 1, 2019**

- Amendments to HTA O. Reg. 413/05 (Vehicle Weights and Dimensions for Safe, Productive and Infrastructure Friendly Vehicles) will eliminate the special vehicle configuration permits currently required to operate long wheelbase tractors, longer saddlemounts, and trailers equipped with smart lift axles, while empowering industry to use alternative applications of existing technologies and new technologies toward improving operational efficiency:
  - The weight limits for wide base single tires at par weights to the dual tires that they replace;
  - The loading of boats on stinger-steer auto carriers;
  - The operation of long wheelbase tractors on designated tandem tractor semitrailer configurations currently not privy to such an allowance;

- Extend the overall length of designated saddlemount configurations;
  - Use of smart lift axles on tandem, tridem and quadruple axles on designated tractor semi- and double-trailers; and
  - Clarify the exemption allowing manual controls on designated trucks and tractors to lift a self-steering axle in emergency situations as to be designed to be activated separately and independently of the 4-way flashers.
- Please contact Joe Lynch at (416) 235-5236 or at [Joe.Lynch@ontario.ca](mailto:Joe.Lynch@ontario.ca) if you have any questions about this change.

#### **4. Elimination of the Enhanced Driver's Licence (EDL) Program – Effective June 6, 2019**

- The EDL program under the *Photo Card Act* was eliminated on June 6th, 2019 when the *Getting Ontario Moving Act* received Royal Assent.
- A transition provision will permit existing EDL cards to remain active until either expiry or when a replacement card is requested. The A transition provision will permit existing EDL cards to remain active until either expiry or when a replacement card is requested.
- The last EDL card is expected to expire December 31, 2025.
- Please contact Annarita Magagna at 416-235-4274 or [Annarita.Magagna@ontario.ca](mailto:Annarita.Magagna@ontario.ca) if you have questions or comments regarding the program.

I would ask that you please bring this memorandum to the attention of the appropriate members of your service.

Thank you for your assistance.



Kevin Byrnes  
Assistant Deputy Minister  
Road User Safety Division

**Ministry of the Solicitor General**

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Public Safety Training Division

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**MEMORANDUM TO:** All Chiefs of Police and  
Commissioner Thomas Carrique  
Chairs, Police Services Boards

**FROM:** Stephen Waldie  
Assistant Deputy Minister  
Public Safety Division and Public Safety Training Division

**SUBJECT:** **Recent Amendments to *Highway Traffic Act* Regulations  
and to the *Photo Card Act***

<b>DATE OF ISSUE:</b>	<b>July 2, 2019</b>
<b>CLASSIFICATION:</b>	<b>General Information</b>
<b>RETENTION:</b>	<b>Indefinite</b>
<b>INDEX NO.:</b>	<b>19-0049</b>
<b>PRIORITY:</b>	<b>Normal</b>

At the request of the Ministry of Transportation, I am sharing a communication regarding recent amendments to *Highway Traffic Act* (HTA) regulations and the *Photo Card Act*.

Please review the attached memo from Assistant Deputy Minister Kevin Byrnes for further details about these changes, which are now in effect.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stephen Waldie".

Stephen Waldie  
Assistant Deputy Minister  
Public Safety Division and Public Safety Training Division

Attachment