



Conditional Licensing Survey

Safety Policy and Education Branch
Ontario Ministry of Transportation

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Introduction

- In many cases, personal mobility depends on ability to operate a vehicle on public roadways.
- A driver's licence can offer individuals with functional impairments, a sense of self-reliance, freedom of movement, social activity and choice.
- Conditional licence would allow drivers with functional impairments, who are still able to drive safely but under limited circumstances, to continue to hold a driver's licence.
 - The conditions could include driving only on local roads or only during the day-time.
- A conditional licensing program would take into consideration the individual abilities of drivers and would provide an alternative to an outright ban on driving.
- The goal of such a program is to help drivers maintain safe mobility for as long as it is safe to do so.



Survey Objective

- Short, exploratory survey sent Canadian jurisdictions to identify those with
 - Conditional licensing programs for drivers with functional impairments,
 - Age-based older driver programs.



Method

- Survey instrument prepared by MTO Road Safety Program Office
 - Emailed survey with questionnaire attachment (Excel spreadsheet).
- CCMTA sent Questionnaire to members of Standing Committee on Drivers and Vehicles on January 30th, 2006 (Reminder sent on February 24th, 2006).
- All 13 Canadian jurisdictions and Transport Canada represented on Committee.



Results

- 8 of 13 jurisdictions responded to the survey.
- All indicated they have some form of conditional licensing in place
 - 7 of 8 indicated restrictions are customized to driver's needs.
- All indicated conditional licence is available at any age.
- All require a driver assessment; any impairments that may affect ability to drive safely considered in assessment.
- None indicated they would add new restrictions to their program.
- Only Manitoba and Saskatchewan offer counselling when decision made not to renew a licence



Conditional Licensing Restrictions (see Appendix 2 for details)


- Adaptive equipment (8/8)
 - Includes corrective lenses, hearing aids, special mirrors, oxygen tank holder, special hand controls
- Time of day (usually daytime only) (7/8)
- Distance from home (radius restrictions) (7/8)
- Maximum speed/road type (6/8)
- Licence Class (6/8)
- Vehicle type/mass restriction (1/8)
- Automatic transmission only (2/8)
- Modified renewal cycle (may include testing requirements) (1/8)
- Periodic medical exam (1/8)
- May drive in licensing jurisdiction only (1/8)
- May drive only for purposes of driving assessment (4/8)
- May create special restrictions customized for driver (3/8)
 - Quebec and Nfld. stressed flexibility of their programs

How is the conditional licensing program triggered?

7	Physician reports patient to licensing agency
6	Healthcare professional other than physician reports patient
7	Police report driver to licensing agency
6	Recommendation from a driver assessment centre
6	Medical review board recommendation
5	Driver licence restriction applied automatically due to failure
5	Restriction automatic if other than vision standards not met
3	Driver may apply for a conditional licence at renewal
3	Driver may apply for a conditional licence at any time

Who conducts the driving assessment for conditional licensing?

8	Government licensing staff				
4	Driver assessment centres				
3	Medical review boards				
5	Physicians and/or other health professionals				
3	Other:	Alberta: Primarily third party providers recognized by the department Quebec: Occupational Therapists Newfoundland and Labrador: Under direction of contracted nurse./physician			



How does the conditional licensing program work?



Alberta

- In all circumstances where the ability of a driver to safely operate a motor is in question the department will consult with:
 - the driver and review the individual driver circumstances,
 - driver's physician/specialist and (if necessary) the Medical Review Committee.
- Goal of consultations is to determine if there are special licensing provisions to keep the driver safe and mobile.



Manitoba

- Conditional licences are usually issued only upon the receipt of a vision report completed by an eye-care practitioner (ophthalmologist/optometrist).
- Daytime and speed are shown as numerical restrictions on driver's licence and geographic area or other conditions that do not have a numerical definition are placed on a 'conditions addendum' attached to actual licence.
- The licence is flagged with "K" which tells interested parties about conditions addendum.
- If driver wants the restrictions removed, an individual assessment is required.



Newfoundland and Labrador

- Restriction applied based on review of medical history and performance on road.
- Road reassessments may be performed at times that may or may not result in restrictions.
- Once a restriction has been determined, the restriction is updated on the driver's record and printed on the back of the driver's licence.
- Medical follow up determined on case by case basis.



Ontario

- If it is determined that driver's medical condition requires a driving assessment to determine fitness to drive then a conditional licence is issued with the restriction printed on the licence (code also entered into driver record) - valid only for the purpose of a rehabilitation assessment.
- Once the driver has successfully passed the driving assessment and report is approved, licence restriction is removed and may continue driving without any restrictions.



Prince Edward Island

- Under the province's Restricted Drivers License Program, each case reviewed individually.
- If medical standards are not met then a conditional licence may be issued.



Quebec

- Following a medical examination report, the Société de l'Assurance Automobile du Québec (SAAQ) determines if functional testing is required.
- If functional testing indicates restricted licence is warranted, the driver is notified.
- SAAQ decides the appropriate restriction taking safety and driver's mobility needs into consideration and informs driver of the decision.



Saskatchewan

- When problem identified by driver examiner or physician with a recommendation for a restriction.
- Restriction is added to the driver's record.
- Conditional licence is sent to a driver.
- No automatic renewal.
- Changes require medical info or successful road test in an unrestricted area.




Yukon

- A condition is added to the licence due to a medical condition or possibly the results of an on-road assessment.
- Driver and medical practitioner are notified.
- Condition code is inputted into driver database.
- If driver is stopped by police and is not abiding by restriction(s) a ticket and/or suspension can be issued.
- A medical review or a referral to the Driver Control Board may result in changes to the restrictions.



Please list any devices/instruments used to assess driving ability.

Alberta: Driver assessments are typically performed by licensed driver examiners, occupational therapists, DriveABLE assessments; information is also provided by driver training schools.
Manitoba: Finalizing an evaluative road assessment conducted by driver examiners on passenger vehicle drivers whose vision fails to meet standards; used in conjunction with the occupational therapist's assessment for any vehicle modifications.
Quebec: occupational therapist's assessment, driving test at SAAQ service centre, driver medical report and related forms.
PEI: Automated driver risk assessment and road testing as done by Highway Safety staff
Saskatchewan: Driver examiner conducts special assessment
Yukon: Driver's medical reports, on-road assessments, an occupational therapy assessment, a review from Motor Vehicle registrar, a review from the Driver Control Board.
Ontario: Driving evaluation report will include details of any devices/instruments that driver requires to safely operate a motor vehicle. Once driver is tested with devices/instruments, condition code will then be placed on licence.



What triggers the identification of an older driver for testing?

- All jurisdictions indicate drivers of any age are usually identified through:
 - the driver licensing application process
 - demerit point programs
 - collision repeater programs
 - physicians
 - police services,
 - family members
 - driver licensing application process
- Five of jurisdictions have age-based triggers (see appendix 1):
 - Alberta, Nfld., Quebec and Yukon have cyclical medical reporting requirements
 - Ontario has 80 and over licence renewal program



Conclusions

- All jurisdictions report some form of conditional licensing.
- All jurisdictions report licensing agency staff involved in assessment process, most report that healthcare professionals and specialized driving assessment centres also involved.
- Most common restrictions are time of day, distance from home, maximum speed/road type and licence class.
- Quebec and Newfoundland and Labrador report the most flexible programs.



Appendix 1 - Age-based Licensing Programs: Canada

- 5 jurisdictions do not have any age-based requirements
- 7 of 13 jurisdictions require obligatory age-based medical exam:
 - Newfoundland, Quebec, Alberta, Northwest Territories and Nunavut require medical exams at ages 75, 80 and every 2 years thereafter;
 - Yukon Territory requires medical exams at age 70, 80 and every year thereafter;
 - British Columbia requires medical exam at age 80 and every 2 years thereafter.
- Beginning at age 80, Ontario requires vision, knowledge, driver record review and attendance at group education session every two years.



Appendix 2 - Conditional Licensing Restrictions

- **Alberta** - Daylight driving only, radius restrictions from residence, local roads only, special vehicle equipment, corrective lenses, automatic transmission, periodic medical, annual vision test, annual road test, licence class restrictions.
- **Manitoba** - Class of vehicle or type, licence class, convex mirrors on fender, daytime driving only, geographic area and speed restrictions. Class 5 drivers who have a 20/60 visual acuity in both eyes have daytime, area and speed restrictions automatically placed on their licence unless they take a road test; individually assess Class 1-4 whose vision fails standards, and Class 5 drivers whose vision is less than 20/60 or visual field less than 120 degrees.



Appendix 2 - Conditional Licensing Restrictions (continued)

- **Newfoundland and Labrador** - Driving restrictions are custom designed to meet driver's needs. Some of the most common are: speed zones, daytime only; geographical region; adaptive equipment; restrictions on drivers who have heart conditions; stroke; cognitive impairment; decreased vision; and limited mobility.
- **Ontario** – Corrective lens and adaptive devices allowed; also have conditional licence which is granted to drivers who are suspended for medical reasons; the licence indicates that it is valid for rehab evaluation only.
- **Prince Edward Island** – Restrictions include daytime only, certain roads only, certain distance from residence, maximum speed.



Appendix 2 - Conditional Licensing Restrictions (continued)

- **Quebec** – Program places an emphasis on flexibility. Most restrictions involve distance from home, time of day, type of transmission, class of vehicle. Condition "S" permits the Medical Evaluation Service to specify the type of restriction. Drivers awaiting a functional assessment may have a "S" that states that they may drive only if accompanied by an occupational therapist or a driving instructor.
- **Saskatchewan** – Restrictions include time of day, town limits, no highway driving and conditional on completion of driving assessment. Commercial standard for hearing may require wearing hearing aid.
- **Yukon** - Restrictions include daylight driving only, licence class, corrective lenses, approved hearing aide, must use both mirrors, valid in Yukon only. Also may indicate driver referred to Driver Control Board for driving assessment.