

**ROAD SAFETY EDUCATION PROGRAM
OPERATING A MOPED OR MOTORIZED SCOOTER**

Société de l'assurance automobile du Québec

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INTRODUCTION

Mopeds and motorized scooters, which are popular with teenagers, represent access to a first motor vehicle where no adult supervision is required. Although a moped or scooter does grant some degree of driving independence, drivers are exposed to certain accident risks. The popularity of mopeds and scooters has expanded in recent years. Between 2003 and 2008, the number of mopeds and scooters on roads grew 89%, and the number of moped and scooter accident victims increased 64%¹.

In response to the situation, the Québec government decided to restrict conditions to obtain a licence to drive a moped or scooter. In addition to conditions that were in effect at the time, Chapter 40 of the Statutes of Québec of 2007 introduced a new provision that requires prospective drivers to successfully complete a driving course to obtain a licence to drive a moped or motorized scooter.

Moped and scooter drivers under the age of 16 are also prohibited from carrying a passenger or driving a moped or scooter that has been modified to increase its power or maximum speed. Police have the authority to fine a driver and seize a moped for 30 days. In addition to paying the fine, a driver must also pay costs related to seizure of the vehicle (approximately \$600).

MOPED AND SCOOTER DRIVER PROFILE

Moped and scooter drivers are very similar to young drivers of passenger vehicles (ages 16 to 24), except they are slightly younger, which is an added risk factor. This category of users also consists mainly of young males who, as we know, pose a higher risk than young females.

Compared to the total number of road users, moped and scooter drivers account for a disproportionately higher number of road accidents. This disproportionately higher number is attributable to the age of moped and scooter operators (primarily under age 17). Between 2004 and 2008, 75% of moped and scooter drivers who were involved in accidents were between the ages of 14 and 16. What is significant is that teenagers ages 14 and 15 accounted for just over 50% of all moped and scooter drivers involved in accidents². At this age, moped and scooter drivers are exposed to more road hazards due to a combination of factors: lack of driving experience, risk-taking and poor assessment of the actual danger.

By overestimating their driving skills and abilities and underestimating the risks associated with use of roads, moped or scooter drivers at this age are likely to feel invincible and take more risks on the road. Speeding, failure to wear a helmet, increasing the power and speed of a moped or scooter and acrobatics are a few examples of the high-risk behaviour of drivers.

A French study on risk perception revealed that youth between the ages of 14 and 16, boys in particular, demonstrate their desire for power and need for peer recognition through expert handling of a moped or scooter. Young moped and scooter drivers do not consider acrobatics or

1. Direction des études et des stratégies en sécurité routière, Société de l'assurance automobile du Québec.

2. Ibid.

speeding to be risky behaviours, but rather signs of greater control of the vehicle³. This problem presumably also exists in Québec.

DRIVER TRAINING REQUIREMENTS

Because operating a moped or motorized scooter grants first time access to the road network as the driver of a motor vehicle, moped and scooter drivers must develop safe and cooperative behaviours during the learning phase. This is important because learning this information and acquiring the necessary skills will carry over to other phases of life as a driver.

To ensure consistency of the contents of the courses available to the learner, the moped and motorized scooter driving course is based on the Road Safety Education Program to obtain a Class 5 driver's licence. Like the Class 5 program, the driving course goes beyond simply learning general skills for handling a moped or scooter, because it also educates drivers about the risks of operating a moped or scooter, risks that are inherent to the operator, a moped or scooter and the environment.

This driving course also stresses the importance that learners be aware of the presence of other road users and users with unique characteristics, including pedestrians, cyclists, motorcyclists, heavy vehicle drivers, etc. This awareness is important because moped or scooter drivers are vulnerable, like drivers of motorcycles.

Through this driving course for moped and scooter operators, the Société de l'assurance automobile du Québec (SAAQ) wishes to train drivers who are better prepared to drive safely and who are aware of others on the road, in keeping with a focus on continuous road education.

3. FÉDÉRATION FRANÇAISE DES SOCIÉTÉS D'ASSURANCES ET L'ASSOCIATION PRÉVENTION ROUTIÈRE, *Étude de la perception du risque chez les 12-15 ans*, 2002.
http://www.preventionroutiere.asso.fr//shared//ugo_content_imageview.aspx?cid=032fa55a-fd30-49f4-b97d-a855907b84a3&fid=fichier

PROGRAM INTRODUCTION

Program Goals

The goals of the program provide an overview of the anticipated overall results of training. They are based on the SAAQ's road safety education strategies, which target safe, cooperative and responsible driving.

- Prepare an individual to drive a moped or scooter.
- Educate an individual about driving risks (risks related to the driver, the vehicle and the environment).

Program Application Standards

The driving course lasts a minimum of 6 hours and consists of the following:

- 3 hours of theoretical instruction;
- 3 hours of practical training on a closed circuit track, the final 30 minutes of which are devoted to evaluating the learner⁴;
- Home study outside of the driving school⁵.

Theoretical instruction must be completed before practical training can begin.

Home study:

Before beginning the driving course, the learner is required to study information provided in the guide entitled *Operating a Moped or Scooter* and the *Driver's Handbook* to learn about traffic rules, road signs and traffic signals. Information in these study guides ties in with the driving course. The knowledge test prospective drivers take at SAAQ service centres is based on the contents of both of these study guides.

Program Competencies

Like the Road Safety Education Program (passenger vehicle), the moped and scooter program was developed according to a competency-based approach. The approach is grounded in a teaching philosophy that aims to stimulate learners to mobilize their personal resources and act, succeed and progress in a variety of situations, according to defined performance levels and with all the types of knowledge required.

4. See the evaluation form provided.

5. The six-hour driving course does not include the number of hours devoted to home study.

The program covers two competencies:

- To recognize the risks involved with using the road network
- To handle a moped or motorized scooter

For the competency *To recognize the risks involved with using the road network*, a learner must be able to determine factors that increase risk in a driving situation. A learner must also recognize the different characteristics of other users and determine appropriate actions for cooperative and courteous driving – apply the Observe-Evaluate-Act (OEA) driving strategy. The OEA driving strategy can be defined as follows:

1. **Observe the road environment:** examine the surroundings (know where and how to look and what to look for)
2. **Evaluate potential at-risk situations:** think of possible solutions and choose the safest
3. **Act safely:** Perform manoeuvres that are safest for you and others.

For the competency *To Handle a moped or motorized scooter*, a learner must be able to properly prepare for travel and demonstrate control during basic moped or scooter manoeuvres.

Risks Related to Use of the Road Network

Competency Reflected in Behaviour

Statement of the Competency

To recognize the risks involved with using the road network

Achievement Context

- On the basis of relevant reference documents related to the subject matter
- On the basis of rules of the *Criminal Code* and the *Highway Safety Code*

Elements of the Competency

Determine factors that increase risk in a driving situation

- Determination of driver-related risk factors – physiological and psychological factors
- Determination of vehicle-related risk factors
- Determination of environment-related risk factors

Determine the legislation and rules of courtesy that make safe, cooperative and responsible driving possible

- Compliance with laws and regulations
- Determination of rules of courtesy

Take other road users into account (application of the OEA strategy)

- Consideration of other road users – characteristics, rights, etc.
- Determination of strategies to ensure visibility to other users
- Adequate and constant communication with other users – communication of intentions (acts of courtesy, etc.)
- Determination of appropriate actions where other users are present

Evaluate one's driving practices with regard to use of the road

- Demonstration of critical judgment of one's behaviour, skills, abilities and limitations
- Determination of the means necessary to improve knowledge and skills

For the Competency as a Whole

- Consideration of the social values related to individual and collective responsibility and of protection of the environment in road safety matters

To Handle a Moped or Motorized Scooter

Competency Reflected in Behaviour

Statement of the Competency

To handle a moped or motorized scooter

Achievement Context

- In a variety of driving situations
- According to the rules of the *Criminal Code* and *Highway Safety Code*
- According to road signs and traffic signals

Elements of the Competency

Prepare the vehicle for travel

Performance Criteria

- Adequate identification of the technical characteristics of the vehicle that is used
- Accurate assessment of the moped or scooter's condition
- Proper travel planning
- Safe driving position

Perform driving manoeuvres

- Adequate visual exploration
- Adequate and constant safety margins
- Constant control of the moped or scooter: braking, steering, acceleration, speed, etc.

Evaluate one's skills and limitations with regard to the manoeuvres performed

- Demonstration of critical judgment of one's behaviour, skills, abilities and limitations
- Accurate determination of the means necessary to improve knowledge and skills

For the Competency as a Whole

- Obeying the *Criminal Code* and *Highway Safety Code*
- Obeying road signs and traffic signals
- Proper use of driving strategies in accordance with the rules
- Decision-making in keeping with road safety
- Constant courtesy to other road users

The types of knowledge required for both competencies are listed in Appendix I.

EVALUATION

To certify that a learner has developed the competencies necessary to drive a moped or motorized scooter safely, an evaluation that takes 30 minutes to complete is conducted at the end of the driving course. Learners who pass the evaluation will be issued an attestation of successful completion for this driving course.

The evaluation is carried out on a closed circuit track and determines if a learner can control a moped or scooter (steering and speed) travelling at a speed of 30 km/h and 50 km/h during the following manoeuvres:

- Start-up
- Driving in a straight line
- Turns
- Successive steering changes
- Stopping and braking
- Parking

Use the form in Appendix III to evaluate the learner.

List of Types of Knowledge Related to the Competency

The types of knowledge or focuses of training related to the competency are used as references for the information that candidates must learn to improve their competency.

The contents related to the types of knowledge that are required are found, among others, in the study guide entitled *Operating a Moped or Motorized Scooter*, the *Driver's Handbook* and in reference material that has been prepared for the Road Safety Education Program – *Road Access Binder*, *Checklist for Sharing the Road with Other Users*, the *Éducation routière* Web site, etc. The moped or scooter owner's manual may also contain helpful information.

This list includes but is not limited to the principal types of knowledge required.

Competency 1: To Recognize the Risks Involved with Using the Road Network

Elements of the Competency	Types of Knowledge (focuses of training)
Determine factors that increase risk in a driving situation	<p>Driver-related risk factors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Age of the moped or scooter driver • Influence of peers, family and media • Importance of being in a condition to drive and maintaining this condition • Causes of an impaired ability to drive – alcohol, drugs, medication, fatigue, etc. • Effects of impaired abilities on driving • Self and emotional control: recognize signs and control one's reactions • Distractions <p>Vehicle-related risk factors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Driver vulnerability due to moped or scooter design – two wheels, no passenger compartment, seat belt or airbags for protection • Consideration of unusual noises, indicator lights, etc. • Importance of having correctly inflated tires <p>Environment-related risk factors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consideration of weather and road conditions – driving at night, driving in rain, road work, gravel roads, etc. • Consideration of traffic density – presence of traffic jam • Consideration of the presence of vulnerable users – pedestrians, cyclists, moped and motorized scooter operators, motorcyclists, etc. – and the presence of heavy and emergency vehicles • Consideration of locations where a larger number of vulnerable users may be present – parks, schools, shopping centres, etc.
Determine the legislation and	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Traffic regulations, road signs and traffic signals – traffic

Elements of the Competency	Types of Knowledge (focuses of training)
rules of courtesy that make safe, cooperative and responsible driving possible	lights, pavement markings, etc. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Laws and regulations governing driving • Rules of civility
Take other road users into account	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Characteristics of other users • Importance of sharing the road for the safety of users, particularly vulnerable users • Visual exploration focused on other users (what to look for, where to look and when) • Strategies to ensure visibility to other users – avoiding driving in their blind spots, use of headlights at all times (day and night), wearing brightly coloured clothing or reflective strips • Need for adequate communication to ensure order and safety on the road network • Consideration of the environment and choice of appropriate methods of communication • Clear communication of one's intentions at all times – whether or not users are present • Choice of appropriate actions for cooperative and courteous driving – increase safety margins (front, rear, side) all around the moped or scooter, slow down, allow others to pass, change lanes, etc.

Competency 2: To Handle a Moped or Motorized Scooter

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Elements of the Competency	Types of Knowledge (focuses of training)
Prepare for travel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategies to have a moped or scooter that is in good mechanical condition, safe and environmentally friendly – periodic maintenance, owner’s manual • Consideration of weather and road conditions and time of day (information source) • Verification that the moped or scooter can be driven safely • Travel planning to and from destination, where necessary – alternate route, road information source, etc. • Necessary driving gear – helmet, visor, clothing, gloves, boots, etc. • Safe driving position
Performing driving manoeuvres	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Importance of adequate visual exploration (what to look for, where to look and when) • Observation: visual scanning, shoulder checks (blind spot), peripheral vision, rearview mirrors, night vision, glare, etc. • Importance of constantly maintaining safety margins (front, rear and side) all around the moped or scooter • Estimation of distance from other users • Estimation of the speed of other users • Factors that may require adjusting safety margins • Adjustment of safety margins (front, rear and side) based on presence of users, weather conditions, road conditions, etc. • Safe and responsible moped or scooter control or handling • Anticipation of deceleration or stops and driving at a speed that is adapted to the situation • Consequences of speeding • Behaviour of the moped or scooter: role of traction and friction in various driving situations

APPENDIX II

Self-Evaluation of Driving Course

1. In the learner driver's view, what are the strengths and points to work on at this stage in the practical training?

Strengths	Points to Work On
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

2. In the instructor's view, what are the strengths and points to work on at this stage in the practical training?

Strengths	Points to Work On
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Learner's name: _____

Instructor's name: _____

APPENDIX III

Evaluation Sheet

Learner's name:			
Date of evaluation:			
Result:	_____ / 100	Pass 🍏	Fail 🍏
Signature of instructor:			

Manoeuvres to perform:

- Start-up
- Driving in straight line
- Turns
- Successive steering changes
- Stopping and braking
- Parking

Observations

	No	Yes	Results
1. Sitting in a safe position			
1.1 Sits in a safe driving position	🍏	🍏	0 or 5
2. Observing the environment			
2.1 Performs an effective visual scan	🍏	🍏	0 or 10
• Looks in the direction of travel			
2.2 Checks the rearview mirrors	🍏	🍏	0 or 10
• Checks at the right moment			
• Checks in the appropriate rearview mirrors			
2.3 Shoulder checks (blind spots)	🍏	🍏	0 or 10
• Checks at the right moment			
• Checks the correct side			
• Checks without moving the body			
3. Communicating one's intentions			
3.1 Uses turn signals and brake light	🍏	🍏	0 or 10
• Uses them in advance			

- Uses them in a clear manner
- Uses them at all times
- Switches them off when a manoeuvre has been completed

4. Maintaining safety margins

4.1 Maintains safety margins all around the moped or scooter 🍏 🍏 0 or 15

- Creates and maintains a front safety margin
- Correctly positions the moped or scooter in a lane of traffic

5. Controlling the moped or motorized scooter

5.1 Controls steering of the moped or scooter 🍏 🍏 0 or 20

- Maintains balance
- Handles the moped or scooter with adequate control

5.2 Controls the speed of the moped or scooter 🍏 🍏 0 or 20

- Drives at a legal speed
- Adjusts speed according to manoeuvre performed

TOTAL : ___/100

Minimum passing score: 75 points

Rule for Verdict

To maintain a passing test score, the candidate must comply with the following rules for verdict:

- Demonstrate safe driving
- Drive without conflict

VIOLATION OF THESE RULES FOR VERDICT WILL RESULT IN AN AUTOMATIC FAILURE.

Comments

APPENDIX IV

Family Contract (sample)

A contract between an aspiring moped or scooter driver and this individual’s parent or legal guardian helps define the rules that each party must respect and specifies the expectations and

responsibilities of each party.

An aspiring moped or scooter driver and this individual's parent or legal guardian must decide together what the consequences of violating the rules will be. Consequences may vary, depending on which rule is violated.

As a prospective moped or scooter driver,

As parent or legal guardian,

(name)

(name)

agree:

agree:

- To behave safely, cooperatively and responsibly;
- To obey all traffic regulations, road signs and traffic signals;
- To understand that driving is a privilege and involves important responsibilities;
- Never to drive under the influence of alcohol, cannabis or another drug;
- Not to increase the maximum power or speed of the moped or scooter;
- To wear protective gear at all times, including a helmet, protective clothing – gloves, long sleeves, pants and boots;
- To wear brightly-coloured clothing or reflective strips while driving.

- To be available for any conversation that will help you become a safe, cooperative and responsible driver;
- That you can call me at any time to come by to pick you up or make arrangements for your safe transportation home;
- To give you more freedom as your driving skills improve;
- To be open to your needs.

Date and signature of learner driver

Date and signature of parent or legal guardian