

Communications Package

Age-based Driver Medical Examination Report Project

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For More Information

For more information on age-based reports, see [RoadSafetyBC's website](#).

For inquiries, email: RoadSafetyBC@gov.bc.ca. Please include "Age-Based DMER Program" in your subject line to help RoadSafetyBC provide you with a timely response.

Confidentiality Notice

CONFIDENTIAL: *This document is confidential and intended solely for use of its intended recipients. Disclosing, copying, distributing or taking any action in reliance on the contents of this information is strictly prohibited.*

Key Messages

- In Spring 2023, RoadSafetyBC will resume issuing age-based Driver Medical Examination Reports.
- This means that senior drivers who meet **new age-based criteria** will receive a report to be completed by healthcare professionals.
- In December 2020, RoadSafetyBC paused issuing age-based reports. Government made this difficult decision to protect seniors from possible exposure to COVID-19 in medical clinics.
- After evaluating the program, RoadSafetyBC will resume issuing age-based reports to senior drivers who meet our new age-based criteria.
- RoadSafetyBC will issue reports to:
 - Drivers who are 80;
 - Drivers who are 85;
 - Drivers who are 87, 89, 91, and every two years following.
- Our data shows that DMERs are effective when issued to drivers aged 80, 85, and every two years thereafter. This change to the program takes an unnecessary burden off seniors while keeping our roads safe.
- High-risk drivers may still be required to complete medical reports, regardless of age.

Age-Based Driver Medical Examination Program: An Overview

- RoadSafetyBC's Driver Medical Fitness age-based program administers medical examinations, called [Driver's Medical Examination Reports](#), to senior drivers starting at age 80.
- Reports are completed by healthcare professionals across the province. They assess for things like:
 - Cognition (for example memory, attention, and judgment),
 - Eyesight
 - Physical health
- The report does not include a road driving test, though some drivers may be referred for additional medical or functional assessments like:
 - [Enhanced Road Assessments](#)
 - Occupational therapist assessment
 - [ICBC road test re-examinations](#)
- Each year, RoadSafetyBC sends about 70,000 examination reports to drivers aged 80 and older.

Questions and Answers: General

What's happening?

In Spring 2023, RoadSafetyBC will resume issuing age-based Driver Medical Examination Reports (DMERs). This means that senior drivers who meet **new age-based criteria** will receive a DMER to be completed by a physician or nurse care practitioner.

Why now?

In December 2020, RoadSafetyBC suspended the program. We made this decision to protect seniors from possible exposure to COVID-19 in medical clinics.

After evaluating the program, RoadSafetyBC has decided to resume issuing age-based Driver Medical Examination Reports (DMERs) to senior drivers who meet our new age-based criteria.

We expect to implement this change in Spring 2023.

How has the program changed?

Drivers who are 82 and 84 **will not** receive age-based DMERs. Our data shows that DMERs are effective when issued to drivers aged 80, 85, and every two years thereafter.

This change to our program takes an unnecessary burden off seniors to be assessed every 2 years until they are 85, while still keeping the roads safe.

RoadSafetyBC is committed to monitoring the data and adjusting the intervals as needed.

Who will receive an age-based DMER?

RoadSafetyBC will issue age-based DMERs to:

- Drivers who are 80;
- Drivers who are 85;
- Drivers who are 87, 89, 91, and every two years following.

Why is RoadSafetyBC changing the intervals of drivers who need DMER testing?

Our data shows that DMERs are effective when issued to drivers aged 80, 85, and every two years thereafter. This change to the program takes an unnecessary burden off seniors while keeping our roads safe.

Why do seniors have to pay for DMERs?

DMERs are not covered under MSP as they are considered as administrative requirements of a third party.

Doctors charge a fee for this exam, and they're entitled to set the amount, which can vary – but Doctors of BC recommends that physicians reduce or waive the fee for patients who are experiencing economic hardship.

Does resuming the program impact any other programs, like the Enhanced Road Assessment (ERA)?

We do not anticipate any major impacts to the ERA. However, volumes of ERA referrals may increase as scheduled age DMERs are adjudicated on a priority basis.

Will RoadSafetyBC still require drivers aged 80 or older to complete road tests?

Yes, if RoadSafetyBC determines that a driver aged 80 or older requires further evaluation, they may be referred to an Enhanced Road Assessment (ERA) or a commercial class re-exam.

Can DMERs be completed virtually?

Yes, doctors can complete a patient's DMER appointment virtually. However, some patients with existing or progressive conditions may require an in-office assessment. Healthcare professionals will determine whether a virtual appointment is appropriate for their patients on a case-by-case basis.

How will drivers aged 80 and older be notified that they are required to complete the age-based program?

At age 79, drivers will receive a letter advising them of the age-based program and their options when they turn 80. This letter does not require action – it is for their information only.

- See a copy of the [age 79 letter here](#).

Around 60 days before turning age 80, 85, and every two years thereafter, drivers will receive a letter insert outlining their options and a personalized DMER to be completed by a healthcare professional.

- See copies of the [age 80 letter insert](#) and [report here](#).

Will RoadSafetyBC backdate DMERs?

No. Due to current operational capacity, RoadSafetyBC will not be backdating DMERs. This means that drivers who turned 80 between December 2020 and June 27, 2023 will not receive a DMER until they turn 85.

Does this mean that some senior drivers won't be medically assessed until they turn 85?

Yes, this means that some senior drivers won't be medically assessed until they turn 85.

It is important to note that high-risk drivers, regardless of age, and drivers with known medical conditions may still be required to complete a report with a healthcare professional.

Additionally, RoadSafetyBC welcomes unsolicited reports about a person's medical fitness to drive. For

more information, visit [RoadSafetyBC's website](#).

How much time do senior drivers have to complete their age-based DMER and return it to RoadSafetyBC?

Senior drivers must complete their DMER with a healthcare professional and return it to RoadSafetyBC within **120 days from the report's issue date**. This timeframe will remain in effect until further notice.

Is the 120-day timeframe permanent?

This 120-day timeframe is temporary. RoadSafetyBC is continuously assessing the pressures on the medical system and will reactivate the permanent 45-day timeframe at an appropriate time.

Why do age-based reports include two different timeframes? Isn't this confusing?

Previously, RoadSafetyBC issued age-based reports with 45-day timeframes. This strategy aimed to assess senior drivers in a timeframe designed to balance healthcare pressures, the needs of each driver, and road safety for all users.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, RoadSafetyBC extended the age-based timeframe from 45 days to 120 days. This difficult decision was made to ease pressures on the healthcare system during the pandemic.

RoadSafetyBC is continuously assessing the pressures on the medical system and will reactivate the permanent 45-day compliance timeframe at an appropriate time.

Is this information confidential before May 1, 2023?

Yes. Drivers are not yet aware of the resumption of the age-based program.

How can I get more information?

For more information on age-based DMERs, [visit our website](#).

For general inquiries, email: RoadSafetyBC@gov.bc.ca. Please include "Age-Based DMER Program" in your subject line to help RoadSafetyBC provide you with a timely response.

Age 79 Letter – Sample

Date

Jones, Bobby
Address line
Address line
Address line

Dear Bobby Jones,

This letter contains important information regarding your British Columbia (B.C.) driver's licence.

Why are you receiving this letter?

I am sending you this letter because you hold a B.C. driver's licence and will be turning 80 next year. This letter is for information only; you do not need to take any action at this time.

In B.C., all drivers must complete a Driver Medical Examination Report when they turn 80, 85, and every 2 years thereafter. This letter will explain the process and answer questions that you may have.

As Superintendent of Motor Vehicles, one of my responsibilities under the *Motor Vehicle Act* is to determine driver medical fitness, for both the safety of the driver and the public. While I recognize and understand that many drivers have excellent driving records, RoadSafetyBC must also consider the fact that medical conditions affecting driving become more prevalent as we age.

What will you need to do?

- Approximately 60 days before your 80th birthday, you will receive a letter and personalized Driver Medical Examination Report form.
- Once you receive your Driver Medical Examination Report in the mail, you will need to schedule an appointment with a doctor or nurse practitioner to have the Driver Medical Examination Report completed. A doctor or nurse practitioner may charge you a fee for the report, which is your responsibility to pay.
- You will have **120 days** to complete your Driver Medical Examination Report with a doctor or nurse practitioner. Once completed, the doctor or nurse practitioner will send it back to RoadSafetyBC.

What can you expect during the completion of your Driver Medical Examination Report?

As part of this evaluation, your physician or nurse practitioner will assess you for:

- Cognition (for example memory, attention, and judgment)
- Eyesight
- Physical health

This evaluation does **not** include a road driving test.

It is important to note that most seniors continue to drive safely after completing this assessment.

How can you prepare?

If you have recently moved, ensure your address is up to date by:

- Using B.C. government's online address change service:
www.addresschange.gov.bc.ca
- Calling the Insurance Corporation of British Columbia (ICBC) at 1-800-950-1498, or
- Book an appointment at a Driver Licensing office by visiting
icbc.com/appointment.

If you are concerned that medical conditions may affect your ability to drive safely, consider:

- Talking to family or friends about your driving;
- Taking some time to consider what would help you be a safer driver; and
- Exploring alternative transportation options.

Where can you find more information?

If you have questions, please contact RoadSafetyBC toll-free at 1-855-387-7747 or by email at RoadSafetyBC@gov.bc.ca

Organizations like ICBC, SeniorsBC, and BCAA provide resources for seniors about staying safe on the road, medical conditions, and retiring from driving.

Visit RoadSafetyBC's website for more information: **www.gov.bc.ca/roadsafetybc/seniors**

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Superintendent of Motor Vehicles
RoadSafetyBC

Age 80 Letter Insert – Sample

This letter contains important information that requires action regarding your British Columbia (B.C.) driver's licence. You will need to have the enclosed Driver Medical Examination Report completed, or your driver's licence may be cancelled.

Why are you receiving this Driver Medical Examination Report?

You are receiving this Driver Medical Examination Report because you hold a British Columbia (B.C.) driver's licence and are turning one of the following ages. In B.C., all drivers must complete a Driver Medical Examination Report when they turn 80, 85, and every 2 years thereafter.

As Superintendent of Motor Vehicles, one of my responsibilities under the *Motor Vehicle Act* is to determine driver medical fitness, for both the safety of the driver and the public. While I recognize and understand that many drivers have excellent driving records, RoadSafetyBC must also consider the fact that medical conditions affecting driving become more prevalent as we age.

What do you need to do?

- **Schedule an appointment** with a doctor or nurse practitioner to complete your personalized Driver Medical Examination Report. A doctor or nurse practitioner may charge you a fee for the report, which is your responsibility to pay.
- You will have **120 days** to complete your Driver Medical Examination Report with a doctor or nurse practitioner. Once completed, the doctor or nurse practitioner will send the report back to RoadSafetyBC. Please ignore the 45-day timeline for completion on the back of the Driver Medical Examination Report.

What can you expect during the completion of your Driver Medical Examination Report?

As part of this evaluation, your physician or nurse practitioner may assess you for:

- Cognition (for example memory, attention, and judgment)
- Eyesight
- Physical health

This evaluation does **not** include a road driving test. It is important to note that most seniors continue to drive safely after completing this assessment. If you are concerned that medical conditions may affect your ability to drive safely, consider talking to family or friends about your driving, taking some time to consider what would help you be a safer driver; and exploring alternative transportation options.

Where can you find more information?

If you have questions, please contact RoadSafetyBC toll-free at 1-855-387-7747 or by email at RoadSafetyBC@gov.bc.ca. Organizations like ICBC, SeniorsBC, and BCAA provide resources for seniors about staying safe on the road, medical conditions, and retiring from driving. Visit RoadSafetyBC's website for more information: www.gov.bc.ca/roadsafetybc/seniors

If instead of providing this information you choose to retire your driver's licence, you may wish to obtain a British Columbia Identification Card from an ICBC Driver Licensing Office. Please book an appointment at a Driver Licensing office by visiting **[icbc.com/appointment](https://www.icbc.com/appointment)**.

Sincerely,
Superintendent of Motor Vehicles
RoadSafetyBC

Driver's Medical Examination Report – Sample

Note: This sample is for age-based reports only.



RoadSafetyBC DRIVER'S MEDICAL EXAMINATION

2

The personal information on this form is being collected under the authority of s. 36 of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act and s. 21 or s. 28 of the Access to Information Act for the purpose of determining your fitness to drive a motor vehicle. If you have any questions about the collection of your personal information please see the contact information in the "In the driver" section of the instructions.

AREA ABOVE FOR OFFICE USE

DRIVER AND PHYSICIAN OR NURSE PRACTITIONER - SEE BACK FOR INSTRUCTIONS

REASON FOR EXAMINATION AND CLASS

- Driver requires a complete physical examination.
- Sections B and C must be completed.
 - Use sections A and D to provide details of any condition(s) that in your opinion may affect driving.

A. HISTORY Link to CCMTA Medical Standards with BC Specific Guidelines is provided on back of form.

VISION ☐ Acuity loss Cause _____ ☐ Field defect Cause _____ ☐ Monocular Date of onset _____ ☐ Other _____ HEARING ☐ Hearing loss ☐ With Hearing Aids ☐ No Aids ☐ Drop Attacks (Tumultuous onset) Date _____ ☐ Vertigo ☐ With vertigo ☐ without vertigo ☐ Date of last vertigo episode _____ ☐ Other _____ MUSCULOSKELETAL ☐ Ankylosis Date _____ Cause _____ ☐ Right-Shoulder ☐ Left-Shoulder ☐ Upper Limb ☐ Above Elbow ☐ Below Elbow ☐ Lower Limb ☐ Above Knee ☐ Below Knee ☐ Limb Prostheses ☐ Without Prostheses ☐ With Vehicle Modifications ☐ None ☐ Weakness, specify _____ ☐ Range of motion loss, specify _____ ☐ Other _____	CARDIOVASCULAR / PVD ☐ Syncope Date _____ Cause _____ ☐ CAD (MI, angiotensin, CAD) Date _____ ☐ Arrhythmia Type _____ ☐ Pacemaker Date _____ ☐ ICD ☐ Primary ☐ Secondary Date _____ ☐ ICD Therapy (Shockable Atrial Fibrillation) Date _____ ☐ Congestive heart failure Cause _____ ☐ LVEF _____ NYHA _____ ☐ Aneurysm Site _____ Size _____ ☐ Peripheral Vascular Disease Site _____ ☐ Other _____ PSYCHIATRIC ☐ Psychosis / Psychotic episode Date _____ ☐ Psych Diagnosis _____ ☐ Impaired judgment, insight ☐ On Medication (s) ☐ Non-medical therapy ☐ Compliant w/ treatment ☐ Non-compliant ☐ Stable Psych condition ☐ Unstable Psych condition ☐ Other _____	DIAGNOSTIC / Neurology / Seizure / CVA ☐ CVA ☐ TIA Date _____ ☐ Epilepsy ☐ Provoked Seizure Cause _____ ☐ Date of last seizure _____ ☐ Neurology ☐ Controlled w/ meds ☐ Uncontrolled ☐ Non-progressive Stroke (Cerebral palsy, etc.) ☐ Progressive defect (Parkinson's, MS, ALS, etc.) ☐ Cognitive impairment MOCA _____ Trails I _____ ☐ Cognitive diagnosis, specify _____ ☐ Significant head injury Date _____ ☐ Intracranial Tumor _____ Date _____ ☐ Other _____ DRUGS / ALCOHOL ☐ Alcohol Use Disorder (AUD) diagnosed, ACTIVE ☐ Substance Use Disorder (SUD) diagnosed, ACTIVE ☐ Alcohol Withdrawal Syndrome Date _____ ☐ Prescribed drugs that could impair ☐ Psychoactive drugs _____ ☐ Narcotics ☐ Compliant w/ treatment ☐ Non-compliant ☐ Other _____	ACCOMMODATION / Sleep Apnea ☐ OSA ☐ SA Date _____ ☐ Obstructive Sleep Apnea ☐ Mild ☐ Moderate ☐ Severe ☐ On CPAP ☐ Compliant ☐ Non-compliant ☐ Apnea Hypopnea Index (AHI) _____ Sleepworth Score _____ ☐ No Daytime Sleepiness ☐ With Daytime Sleepiness ☐ Other _____ ENDOCRINE ☐ Diabetes, treated with: ☐ Insulin ☐ Oral Meds ☐ Compliant w/ treatment ☐ Non-compliant ☐ Stable BG Control HbA1C _____ Date _____ ☐ Severe hypoglycemia, unable to self-treat Date _____ ☐ Hypoglycemia unawareness Date _____ ☐ Persistent / Hypoglycemia Unawareness ☐ Other _____ OTHER CONDITIONS ☐ General debility, frailty, or functional decline ☐ Other (see guide) _____
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B. VISION SCREENING AND PHYSICAL FINDINGS AFFECTING DRIVING May include EVFVFT done within one year if available.

VISUAL ACUITY ☐ Uncorrected R _____ L _____ Both _____ ☐ Corrected R _____ L _____ Both _____ VISUAL FIELD ☐ Normal ☐ Normal ☐ Both visual acuity and visual field meet Physician's Guide criteria for license class ☐ YES
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C. OPINION Having completed A & B as applicable, in your opinion, does patient have a condition that may affect driving:

☐ NO ☐ YES ☐ May in future - recommend follow-up in _____ years

D. DETAILS OF CONDITION(S) THAT AFFECT OR MAY AFFECT DRIVING May include relevant specialists' reports or lab results.

E. RECOMMENDATION(S)

☐ Specialist Consult - Type _____ Enclosed: ☐ Yes ☐ No I will arrange: ☐ Yes ☐ No	☐ Road test to assess _____ Rationale for road test _____ ☐ Restrictions (Reason & Type) _____
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F. DRIVER'S CERTIFICATION AND CONSENT TO RELEASE INFORMATION

- I certify that the information I have given to the Physician or Nurse Practitioner completing this report is to the best of my knowledge true and complete.
- I understand that inaccurate, misleading, missing or false information may lead to denial or cancellation of my driver's license.
- I authorize the release of this medical report and all past or future reports pertaining to diseases, disabilities and conditions that may affect driving to the Superintendent of Motor Vehicles.

Patient's Signature _____ Date _____	Physician's or NP's Signature _____ Date _____
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G. RELATIONSHIP WITH PATIENT

- ☐ Family physician or NP for _____ years
- ☐ Locum ☐ Walk-in ☐ First Visit ☐ NP ☐ Specialist

EXAMINING PHYSICIAN'S OR NP'S NAME AND ADDRESS (Print Name or use rubber stamp) _____ _____ TELEPHONE NO. _____	Examination Date _____ Physician's or NP's Signature _____
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PHYSICIAN OR NP: FAX TO 250-952-6888 OR MAIL TO RoadSafetyBC, P.O. BOX 9254, STN PROV GOVT, VICTORIA, BC, V8W 9J2

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RoadSafetyBC



INSTRUCTIONS

NOTE TO DRIVER AND PHYSICIAN or NURSE PRACTITIONER (NP): The fee for completing this form is not covered by the Medical Services Plan or by the Superintendent of Motor Vehicles.

To the driver:

- Under section 25 or 29 of the *Motor Vehicle Act* the Superintendent of Motor Vehicles requires you to have this form completed for one of the following reasons: because you have reached an age when medical conditions that affect driving are more common, or because you hold, or have applied for a class 1, 2, 3 or 4 driver's licence, or airbrake endorsement. Refer to the "REASON FOR EXAMINATION AND CLASS" on the front of the form.
- This form must be completed and returned by your physician or NP to the Superintendent of Motor Vehicles within 45 days. If medical approval is required prior to obtaining a licence for any class, you will be unable to obtain that licence until the completed form is submitted and approved. If this medical examination is required for a class of licence you already have, your driver's licence may be cancelled if you fail to have the form completed and submitted by your physician or NP within 45 days. This means you will be unable to drive until the form is submitted and you are issued a new driver's licence.
- RoadSafetyBC has no authority to set the fee physicians or nurse practitioners charge, they are entitled to set their own fees and to bill patients directly.
- If you are currently prohibited from driving, this medical report must be completed and returned by your physician or NP before your driving privilege can be considered for reinstatement.
- If you do not wish to retain your present class of driver's licence, please present this report uncompleted and your driver's licence to the nearest ICBC Driver Licensing Office.
- If you have a medical condition that may relapse, recur or deteriorate, you may have to take future medical examinations.
- You will be notified in writing only if there is a change in your driver's licence status or if the Superintendent of Motor Vehicles requires further information.
- If you have any questions about the collection of your personal information you may contact the RoadSafetyBC branch at PO Box 9254 Stn Prov Govt, at 250-387-7747 or toll-free at 1-855-387-7747.

To the examining physician or NP:

- It is essential to note the "Reason for Examination" and class of licence on front of form prior to completion.
- Links to the "CCMTA Medical Standards for Drivers with BC Specific Guidelines" can be found at: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/transportation/driving-and-cycling/roadsafetybc/medical-fitness/medical-prof/med-standards>
- Links to "Driver medical fitness information for medical professionals" can be found at: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/transportation/driving-and-cycling/roadsafetybc/medical-fitness/medical-prof>
- Provide details of any medical conditions and medications that may affect driving in part D.
- Fax or mail the completed form as instructed on the front of this form. If you mail, you may wish to make a copy for your records.

BRITISH COLUMBIA DRIVER LICENCE CLASSIFICATIONS**Quick Check Chart**(Guide only - see *Motor Vehicle Act Regulations* for official purposes)

Class	Permits Operation of:
1	Any motor vehicle or combination of motor vehicles, except motorcycles
2	All class 5 vehicles plus all public passenger-carrying vehicles
3	All class 5 vehicles plus any motor vehicle with 3 or more axles, but not public passenger-carrying vehicles; towed vehicles cannot exceed 4600 kg
4 unrestricted	All class 5 vehicles, plus an ambulance, taxi, or school bus, special activity bus with seating capacity of not more than 25 persons, including driver
4 with restriction 17	All class 5 vehicles, plus an ambulance, taxi or special vehicle with a seating capacity of 10 or less
5 and 7	Any 2-axle motor vehicles (other than a motorcycle), motorhomes, construction vehicles, may tow vehicles up to 4600 kg
6 and 8	Motorcycles, all terrain cycles or vehicle

RESTRICTION / ENDORSEMENT DEFINITIONS

11	QUALIFIED SUPERVISOR REQUIRED	23	HEARING AID REQUIRED FOR CLASS 1, 2, 3, OR 4 OR FOR ENDORSEMENT 18/19
12	RESTRICTED TO DAYLIGHT HOURS ONLY	24	CLASS 6 OR 8 RESTRICTED TO MOTOR SCOOTERS
13	CLASS 6 OR 8 NOT PERMITTED TO CARRY PASSENGERS	25	FITTED PROSTHESIS / LEG BRACE REQUIRED
14	NO HWY 99 S, OR VAN, OR HWY 1 E. OF VAN. OR W. OF HWY 9	26	SPECIFIED VEHICLE MODIFICATIONS REQUIRED
15	PERMITTED TO OPERATE VEHICLES WITH AIR BRAKES	28	RESTRICTED TO AUTOMATIC TRANSMISSION
16	NOT PERMITTED TO OPERATE CLASS 2 OR 4	35	NOT PERMITTED TO EXCEED 60 KMH
17	NOT PERMITTED TO OPERATE BUSES	36	NOT PERMITTED TO EXCEED 80 KMH
18	PERMITTED TO OPERATE SINGLE TRUCKS WITH AIR BRAKES ON INDUSTRIAL ROADS	37	NOT PERMITTED TO TRANSPORT DANGEROUS GOODS
19	PERMITTED TO OPERATE TRUCK TRAILER WITH AIR BRAKES ON INDUSTRIAL ROADS	42	QUALIFIED SUPERVISOR REQUIRED, ONE PASSENGER ONLY
20	PERMITTED TO OPERATE TRUCK TRAILER OF ANY GVW WITHOUT AIR BRAKES	43	RESTRICTED TO 5:00AM TO MIDNIGHT ONLY
21	CORRECTIVE LENSES REQUIRED	44	NO OPERATION OF MOTOR VEHICLE WITH ALCOHOL IN BODY, MUST CLEARLY DISPLAY OFFICIAL NEW DRIVER SIGN