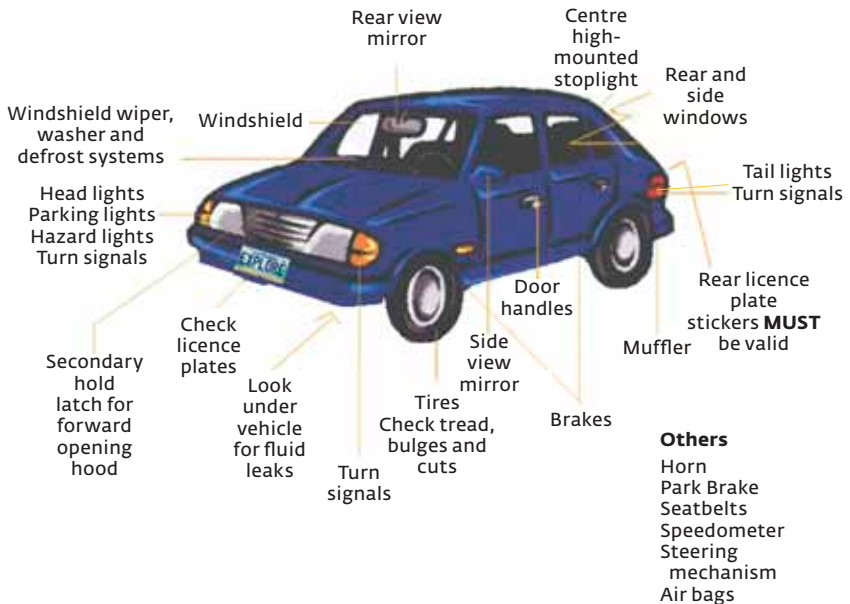


## 8. Vehicle Equipment

As a driver, you are responsible for ensuring that your vehicle is safe to drive. Vehicles should be thoroughly checked at least twice a year. A police officer can order you to have defective equipment repaired immediately. If you fail to comply, your vehicle registration may be suspended until a qualified mechanic certifies the defects have been repaired.

Is your vehicle safe to drive? Check:

### Circle Check — Exterior of Vehicle



### Required Equipment

The following equipment must be in safe working condition:

#### Brakes

Brakes must be able to stop passenger vehicles travelling at 30 km/h within 7.6 metres. Other motor vehicles, such as trucks and vans under 4,540 kilograms, must be able to stop within nine metres. All brakes should be periodically checked and, if necessary, adjusted.

## Lights

All motor vehicles, except motorcycles, must have:

- From two to four headlights, including a high beam and low beam on each side, in good working order. Vehicles must also have a high-beam indicator light. When operating your vehicle, headlights must be switched on ½ hour before sunset until ½ hour after sunrise and when visibility is reduced to 60 metres. A recommended safe driving practice is to drive with headlights on all the time.
- Every motor vehicle (except motorcycles and mopeds) manufactured on or after Dec. 1, 1989, must be equipped with functional daytime running lights. For motorcycles and mopeds, model year 1975 or later, a headlamp must be on at all times when being operated.
- Turn signals — amber or white lights at the front, red or amber lights at the rear. Motorcycles of the model or make of the year 1974 or earlier and mopeds are not required to be equipped with signal lights. Trailers require signal lights on the rear only.
- At least two rear red lights or, for vehicles dated 1967 or earlier, at least one rear red light.
- Passenger cars manufactured after 1986 must be equipped with one functional centre high-mounted stop light, in addition to the regular stop lights.
- One white light for the rear number plate.
- If a trailer is attached, at least one red light on the rear plus a stop light. Towed vehicles whose width exceeds 2.05 metres (except passenger cars) must have clearance lights and reflectors at the front and rear.
- All vehicles that have a load extending one metre or more past the rear of the vehicle must have a red flag clearly visible at the end of the load during daylight, and a red light or reflector at the end of the load at night.

## Tires

To maximize the safety and life of your tires:

- Use tires of the same construction and size. Your owner's manual should inform you which is best for your vehicle.
- Using an accurate tire pressure gauge, check the air pressure of your tires at least once a month and after long trips. The best time to inflate tires is when they are cool.

- Check your owner's manual to determine if and when you should rotate tires.
- Always replace tires when the tread is less than 1.6 millimetres. After replacing tires, have the wheels balanced.
- Studded tires are illegal between **April 30 and Oct. 1**.

**Remember:** a tire with deep cuts, cracks, blisters or bulges is dangerous and should be replaced.



**1) Normal Wear**  
exposes the wear indicators between two or more adjacent grooves. Replace the tire when the wear indicators become visible.



**2) Under-Inflation**  
will cause a tire to wear out at the edges first. This tire's smooth edges may cause skids on wet curves and must be replaced.



**3) Over-Inflation**  
causes the tire to wear out in the centre first. This tire is dangerously worn and must be replaced.

## Mirrors

All motor vehicles must be equipped with a mirror, providing a clear rear view. Vehicles such as vans, buses, trucks, campers, cars pulling trailers and other vehicles must have outside mirrors on the right and left sides. Extended mirrors must be removed when a trailer is not being towed.

## Horn

All motor vehicles must have a horn that can be heard for at least 60 metres. A horn should be sounded only when necessary.

## Windshield and Windows

There must be a clear view from the front windshield, side and rear windows. From **Nov. 1 to March 31** inclusive, your vehicle must be capable of keeping the windshield, the rear window and the windows at both sides free from frost.

## **Windshield Wipers and Washers**

Front windows must have windshield wipers in good working condition and every motor vehicle dating from 1971 (except motorcycles or mopeds) must have a functioning windshield washer with the fluid container topped up as necessary.

## **Speedometer and Odometer**

A motor vehicle must have a speedometer and odometer in good working order. It is illegal to alter the distance shown on an odometer.

## **Muffler**

All motor vehicles must have a muffler capable of preventing excessive noise. A leaky muffler can cause carbon monoxide poisoning. It is illegal to use a muffler cut-out, straight exhaust, gutted muffler, hollywood muffler, bypass or any device that reduces the effectiveness of a noise muffler.

## **Bumper**

Every passenger car must have a bumper at the front and rear.

## **Suspension**

It is illegal to raise or lower the original suspension of a passenger car.

## **Other Equipment**

### **Oil Pressure Gauge**

This gauge shows if there is sufficient oil pressure to motor parts where it is needed.

### **Temperature Gauge**

This gauge shows the temperature of the engine. Do not operate the vehicle if this gauge shows a high temperature.

### **Ammeter/Voltmeter**

This gauge shows when the battery is being charged or discharged.

### **Fuel Gauge**

This gauge identifies the amount of fuel left in the fuel tank.

### **Warning Light**

Most vehicles are equipped with warning lights to notify the driver of problems with certain operating systems on the vehicle. If a light is illuminated consult your vehicle operating manual.

### **Air Bags**

Air bags are built into steering wheels, dashboards and in the sides of some vehicles. They launch automatically when there is a very fast deceleration such as a crash. They give drivers and passengers extra protection, especially during head on and side impact crashes.