Short-term Administrative Sanctions for Alcohol and Drug Use by Drivers

Key Considerations

- Enhanced short-term administrative suspensions, when combined with vehicle impoundment and monetary penalties, are a viable, effective means of reducing the magnitude of the impaired driving problem in Canada. This brief outlines the measures that provinces and territories have taken to help keep impaired drivers off the roads:
- Most jurisdictions have implemented enhanced administrative sanctions, including immediate short-term licence suspension and vehicle impoundment, for drivers with blood alcohol concentrations between 50 and 80 mg/dL.
- The legalization of non-medical cannabis has prompted the expansion of administrative licence suspensions to include drivers affected by drugs.
- Several jurisdictions have enhanced administrative suspensions with a period of vehicle impoundment.
- Zero tolerance for alcohol and drugs for novice drivers with immediate administrative sanctions has become universal across Canada.

The Issue

Ever since Canada introduced a per se blood alcohol concentration (BAC) limit of 80 mg/dL for drivers in 1969, there have been repeated calls to lower the limit to 50 mg/dL, a level more consistent with that in most other industrialized countries around the world. It is argued that a lower limit would help reduce the annual toll of fatalities and injuries associated with driving after drinking. Successive governments have studied the issue and decided to leave the Criminal Code limit at 80 mg/dL and encouraged the provinces and territories to deal with drivers with lower BACs in a manner they deemed appropriate within their respective highway traffic legislation.

In recent years, growing concern about drugs and driving has prompted several jurisdictions to expand their program of short-term administrative suspensions to include drivers who are adversely affected by drugs. The criterion for issuing a suspension is either the driver’s performance on the Standardized Field Sobriety Test,* the opinion of the police officer that the driver is adversely affected by drugs, or a positive result on approved oral fluid drug screening equipment.

* The Standardized Field Sobriety Test consists of three tests, Horizontal Gaze Nystagmus, Walk and Turn, and One-Leg Stand, as prescribed in regulations pursuant to section 254.1 of the Criminal Code of Canada. (Note: Part 2 of C-46 changes this to 320.27(1)(a).)
Background

Portable roadside alcohol screening devices (known as approved screening devices or ASDs) have been used by the police in Canada since the mid-1970s. The devices are calibrated to register “Warn” when the alcohol concentration is between 50 and 100 mg/dL (hence the term “Warn range” suspension) and “Fail” when the driver’s BAC is over 100 mg/dL. Although the BAC limit in the Criminal Code is 80 mg/dL, the upper limit of the “warn” range on the ASDs was set at 100 mg/dL so as to provide some latitude for measurement error.

During the 1980s, provinces and territories began implementing legislation giving police the authority to suspend for a period of 4 to 24 hours the licence of any driver who is affected by alcohol or has a BAC of at least 50 mg/dL. This type of legislation spread across the country and only Quebec and the Yukon Territory do not have immediate roadside suspensions for drivers with a BAC of at least 50 mg/dL. Quebec has a 50 mg/dL limit for drivers of heavy vehicles. Saskatchewan sets the threshold for immediate suspensions at 40 mg/dL.

Immediate short-term suspensions were viewed as a means for getting drivers with BACs below the Criminal Code limit off the road. For many, a short-term administrative suspension is the first encounter with law enforcement about drinking and driving and can serve as a warning that drinking drivers will be caught and punished.¹

Over the years, anecdotal evidence along with survey data suggested that immediate short-term suspensions were becoming a convenient alternative for police officers who occasionally would prefer to issue a short-term suspension rather than spend two to three hours processing a criminal impaired driving charge that might have a relatively low probability of a conviction. This use of discretion was a means to avoid the numerous procedural and legal obstacles that confronted officers in the process of charging offenders under the Criminal Code.²

In 2005, the Canadian Council of Motor Transport Administrators (CCMTA) developed a new model of administrative sanctions for dealing with low-BAC drivers — that is, those with BACs between 50 and 80 mg/dL.³ The key features of the proposed model included:

- An immediate roadside suspension of 7 to 14 days for drivers registering a BAC of at least 50 mg/dL on an approved screening device;
- The driver must surrender his or her driver’s licence;
- Subsequent infractions within three years will result in suspensions of 30, 45 and 60 days, the length of the suspension increasing with each infraction;
- A second suspension within three years will also trigger a requirement for an impaired driver’s assessment from a recognized agency;
- A third suspension within three years will require the driver to participate in an ignition interlock program;
- All suspensions will be recorded on the driver’s record for a period of 10 years;
- Drivers will pay a licence reinstatement fee of $150 to $300;
- Drivers can challenge the BAC result by requesting a breath test on an approved evidentiary breath-test instrument.
Although there have been repeated calls to lower the illegal BAC limit in the Criminal Code from 80 mg/dL to 50 mg/dL, a program of enhanced short-term administrative suspensions appears to be a viable and effective alternative to criminal sanctions for drivers with BACs below the criminal limit.

**Current Status**

Since the CCMTA model was released in 2005, several provinces have revised their “warn range” suspension programs by implementing various elements of the new model. For example, most provinces have increased the suspension from 24 hours to either three or seven days. Several jurisdictions (e.g., British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Newfoundland and Labrador) have gone one step further and added the possibility of a period of vehicle impoundment to the suspension. Manitoba includes a provision for a seven-day suspension if there is a passenger in the vehicle under 16 years of age. In most jurisdictions, repeat suspensions can result in a longer suspension and can include a requirement to attend alcohol assessment and a remedial program, and possibly install an alcohol ignition interlock.

Several jurisdictions have extended the use of short-term administrative suspensions to include drivers who appear to be affected by drugs or perform poorly on the Standardized Field Sobriety Test. The legalization of non-medical cannabis has been associated with the addition of zero tolerance for drugs for novice drivers (those in the graduated licensing program). Several jurisdictions also include drivers under the age of 22 in the zero tolerance rule. The Appendix summarizes current short-term pre-conviction administrative sanctions for each province and territory. The Appendix also includes the rules surrounding driving after using alcohol or drugs for novice (and young) drivers and the pre-conviction administrative sanctions imposed for a Criminal Code impaired driving violation.

**What the Evidence Says**

Administrative suspensions are based on the fundamental principles of deterrence theory: swiftness, certainty and severity. The suspension takes effect immediately, at the side of the road. There is a high certainty that the suspension will be applied if the driver blows over 50 mg/dL on an approved screening device. Although a 24-hour suspension is not generally perceived as a severe sanction, suspensions of even three or seven days increase the severity, especially when coupled with vehicle impoundment and monetary penalties.

Although short-term administrative suspensions have been around for several decades in Canada, the most common form of administrative licence suspension (ALS) was introduced in the United States in the 1980s for suspected impaired drivers who had a BAC over 80 mg/dL or who refused to provide a breath test. The suspension was issued at the time of the offence and usually became effective within 21 days of the violation. This form of ALS proliferated across the United States and every province and territory in Canada implemented some form of ALS for drivers who failed (i.e., over 80 mg/dL) or refused a breath test.

ALS was intended to increase the certainty a violator would serve a period of suspension (typically 90 days) and enhance the speed with which the action was taken. There exists a considerable body of scientific evidence demonstrating that this form of ALS is an efficient, effective means of improving road safety by removing high-risk drivers from the road quickly. Several evaluation studies in the United States demonstrate that ALS serves as an effective specific and general deterrent, reducing the probability of repeat violations and crashes among those issued administrative suspensions\(^4\) and preventing others from driving after consuming alcohol.\(^5\)

General and specific deterrent effects of ALS have also been found in Canada. In Manitoba, there was a 27% decrease in driver fatalities with a positive BAC and a 44% reduction in repeat impaired...
driving offences among those subjected to ALS in the four years following its introduction. In Ontario, ALS was associated with a 14% decrease in single vehicle nighttime casualty crashes.

Enhanced administrative suspension programs in British Columbia and Alberta provide even greater deterrence by not only increasing the length of the suspension, but coupling it with vehicle impoundment. Evaluations of the impact of the B.C. program revealed a 44% decrease in the proportion of drivers on the road at night with BACs of at least 50 mg/dL and a 40.4% decrease in alcohol-involved fatal crashes. Alberta reported a 46% decrease in alcohol-involved fatalities in the six months following the introduction of the new sanctions.

The impact of all short-term administrative suspensions on alcohol-involved driver fatalities in Canada from 1987 through 2010 has recently been examined. After accounting for a number of factors known to be associated with traffic fatalities (e.g., per capita beer consumption, unemployment rate, percentage of youth in the population), short-term administrative suspensions were associated with an overall 3.7% decrease in fatally injured drivers with BACs of at least 50 mg/dL. Decreases of 2.9% and 2.6% were also observed in driver fatalities with BACs greater than 80 mg/dL and 150 mg/dL, respectively. No changes were found in the rate of impaired driving charges.

Limitations

In both British Columbia and Alberta, in addition to the enhanced administrative sanctions for low BAC drivers, new administrative sanctions were also implemented for drivers with BACs over 80 mg/dL. For example, in British Columbia, the sanctions for higher BAC drivers include an immediate 90-day suspension and a 30-day vehicle impoundment, installation of an alcohol ignition interlock and participation in the Responsible Driver Program — a remedial education program.

Enhanced administrative sanctions have been subject to legal challenges. The challenges have primarily focused on the sanctions imposed on drivers found with a BAC over 80 mg/dL. In British Columbia, court rulings have largely upheld the programs, but have prompted the government to enhance the appeal procedures available to drivers and make other minor changes to the program, including a requirement to re-calibrate ASDs to read “Warn” at a BAC of 55 mg/dL, rather than 50 mg/dL to account for possible measurement error.

In British Columbia, drivers with BACs over 80 mg/dL can be issued administrative sanctions but might not necessarily be charged under the Criminal Code. The decision not to charge can be viewed as a means to circumvent or avoid the time and effort required to process criminal charges. It has been claimed that this amounts to a de facto “decriminalization” of impaired driving and denies the accused the right to a review of the charges by a court.

Gaps

The enhanced program of administrative sanctions for drivers with low BACs in British Columbia and Alberta also included more severe administrative sanctions for drivers with higher BACs (i.e., over 80 mg/dL). Because these new measures were implemented at or about the same time, it is impossible to distinguish the unique and separate impact of the sanctions for drivers with BACs of 50–80 mg/dL versus those with BACs over 80 mg/dL. Any sustained, long-term benefits of these measures have yet to be determined.

What Other Countries Are Doing

Although it is difficult to draw comparisons with the legal systems in other countries, it appears that the use of short-term administrative sanctions for low-BAC drivers is unique to Canada. Other countries might remove impaired drivers from the road to prevent their continued operation of the vehicle, but
immediately suspending for several days the licence of a driver with a BAC lower than the criminal limit appears to have no precedent. Enhanced administrative sanctions that include provisions for immediate vehicle impoundment several provinces are also unique.

**Conclusion**

As an alternative to lowering the BAC limit in the *Criminal Code*, provinces and territories have used the powers in their highway traffic legislation to deal with drivers who are affected by alcohol or drugs by using short-term, immediate administrative licence suspensions. Amendments in several provinces have taken short-term administrative suspensions to the next level by adding vehicle impoundment, monetary penalties and licence reinstatement fees.

Extending short-term administrative suspensions and impoundments to those affected by drug use is gaining acceptance and several jurisdictions have introduced suspensions for drivers who are affected by drugs that are equivalent to those for alcohol (see Appendix). The criterion for these suspensions is often poor performance on the Standardized Field Sobriety Test or a positive oral fluid drug screening.

Zero tolerance for alcohol and drug use by novice and young drivers has been enacted in every jurisdiction in Canada. These laws help teach young and new drivers to begin their driving careers without the added risks associated with alcohol and drug use.

In addition, because administrative sanctions can be somewhat controversial, it is imperative that the impact of these measures on road safety be documented. Evaluation research must be conducted to determine the nature and extent of changes in impaired driving behavior, charges, and crashes.
# Appendix: Provincial/Territorial Administrative Responses to Alcohol and Drug-Impaired Driving

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Prov./Terr.</th>
<th>Administrative Penalties for Alcohol or Drugs below Criminal Limits</th>
<th>Young/Novice Drivers†</th>
<th>Administrative Actions for Criminal Offence (Alcohol or Drug)‡</th>
<th>Other</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Alta.       | BAC > 50 mg/dL                                  | Zero tolerance for alcohol/drugs for novice drivers (in GDL program) | Meet threshold for criminal impairment by alcohol or drug or refuse to provide sample | • Immediate 24-hour suspension on suspicion of being impaired by alcohol, drugs or a physical or medical condition, or impaired by fatigue or other physical conditions  
• Suspension for medical condition may have file reviewed to determine fitness to drive |
|             | • 1st offence                                   | • Immediate 30-day licence suspension  
• 3-day vehicle seizure  
• 2nd offence  
• Immediate 15-day licence suspension  
• 7-day vehicle seizure  
• Planning Ahead course  
• 3rd offence  
• Immediate 30-day suspension  
• 7-day vehicle seizure  
• IMPACT program | • 7-day vehicle seizure  
• Must remain suspension-free for the last year to exit the Graduated Driver Licensing program  
• Planning Ahead course | |
| B.C         | BAC > 50 mg/dL                                  | BAC > 0 but < 50 mg/dL | Fail or refuse breath sample                                  |       |
|             | • 1st offence                                   | • 12-hr suspension for  
• 24-hr suspension affected by alcohol or drugs  
• 24-hr vehicle impoundment possible  
• Novice drivers must start over at the beginning of 24-month N-licence period  
• Learner (L licence) drivers must reattempt all testing | • 90-day Immediate Roadside Prohibition (IRP)  
• 30-day vehicle impoundment  
• $500 administrative penalty  
• May be referred to Responsible Driver Program or Ignition Interlock Program |       |
|             | • 2nd offence                                   | • 24-hr suspension for  
• 24-hr suspension affected by alcohol or drugs  
• 24-hr vehicle impoundment possible  
• Novice drivers must start over at the beginning of 24-month N-licence period  
• Learner (L licence) drivers must reattempt all testing | • 7-day vehicle seizure  
• Must remain suspension-free for the last year to exit the Graduated Driver Licensing program  
• Planning Ahead course |       |
|             | • $200 administrative penalty                   | • 3-day vehicle seizure  
• 7 days seizure on 2nd and subsequent offence  
• Mandatory remedial education |       |
|             | • 2nd offence                                   | • 30-day vehicle suspension  
• 7-day vehicle seizure  
• Planning Ahead course |       |
|             | • 3rd offence                                   | • 30-day vehicle suspension  
• 7-day vehicle seizure  
• Planning Ahead course |       |
|             | • Immediate 30-day licence suspension            | • 30-day vehicle suspension  
• 7-day vehicle seizure  
• Planning Ahead course |       |
|             | • Immediate 30-day licence suspension            | • 30-day vehicle suspension  
• 7-day vehicle seizure  
• Planning Ahead course |       |
|             | • $300 administrative penalty                   | • 30-day vehicle suspension  
• 7-day vehicle seizure  
• Planning Ahead course |       |
|             | • 3rd offence                                   | • 30-day vehicle suspension  
• 7-day vehicle seizure  
• Planning Ahead course |       |
|             | • Immediate 30-day licence suspension            | • 30-day vehicle suspension  
• 7-day vehicle seizure  
• Planning Ahead course |       |
|             | • $400 administrative penalty                   | • 30-day vehicle suspension  
• 7-day vehicle seizure  
• Planning Ahead course |       |
|             | • If drugs & fail SFST, 24-hr prohibition        | • 30-day vehicle suspension  
• 7-day vehicle seizure  
• Planning Ahead course |       |

† Novice driver generally refers to drivers in the graduated licensing program or its equivalent in the jurisdiction.
‡ Pre-conviction sanctions only; does not include post-conviction sanctions.
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<th>Other</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Man.</td>
<td>BAC &gt;50 mg/dL or fail SFST or positive drug screen</td>
<td>Zero tolerance for alcohol and drugs for drivers in the Graduated Driver Licensing program or have not held a full licence for three years (minimum first 5 years of driving)</td>
<td>Over per se limit, refuse breath test or oral fluid test, refuse SFST or drug evaluation, or any concentration of illegal drug</td>
<td>“Look back” period for previous violations is 10 years</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• 1st violation</td>
<td>• 24-hr suspension</td>
<td>• 3-month administrative suspension</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Immediate 72-hr licence suspension</td>
<td>• Possible additional suspension for Driver Improvement and Control Program</td>
<td>• Mandatory impaired driver assessment</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• 7 days if anyone under 16 in the vehicle</td>
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<td>• Vehicle can be impounded for failing or refusing breath or oral fluid demand, SFST, or drug evaluation</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• 2nd violation</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• 15-day suspension</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• 3rd violation</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• 30 day suspension</td>
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<td>• 4th or subsequent violation</td>
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<td>• 60-day suspension</td>
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<td>• Repeat violators (2 or more suspensions in three years)</td>
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<td>• must undergo an assessment by the Addictions Foundation Manitoba and comply with any required intervention</td>
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<td>• Suspected drug influence – 24 hr suspension</td>
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<tr>
<td>N.B.</td>
<td>BAC &gt; 50 mg/dL</td>
<td>Zero tolerance for alcohol and drugs for novice drivers and those under 21 years of age</td>
<td>If driver meets the criminal threshold by sample of bodily substance or performance on DRE:</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• 1st violation</td>
<td>• 7-day suspension</td>
<td>• Immediate short-term roadside suspensions for 30 days on 1st offence</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• 7-day suspension</td>
<td>• 7-day vehicle</td>
<td>• 60 days if 2nd offence</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Discretionary 3-day impoundment</td>
<td>impoundment</td>
<td>• Vehicle impoundment for length of suspension</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• 2nd violation</td>
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<td>• Participation in re-education course</td>
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<td>• 15-day suspension</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Discretionary 7-day impoundment</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• 3rd violation</td>
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<td>• 30-day suspension</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Mandatory 7-day impoundment</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• 24-hr suspension for “unfit to drive”</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Participation in re-education course for multiple violations in a 5-year period</td>
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</table>
### Short-term Administrative Sanctions for Alcohol and Drug Use by Drivers

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Prov. / Terr.</th>
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<th>Young/Novice Drivers†</th>
<th>Administrative Actions for Criminal Offence (Alcohol or Drug)‡</th>
<th>Other</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| N.L.          | **BAC > 50 mg/dL**  
- 7-day suspension  
- 7-day vehicle impoundment  
**Deemed impaired**  
- 7-day suspension  
- Impaired by drug (SFST, DRE, screening device)  
- 7-day suspension  
- 7-day vehicle impoundment  
- 7-day suspension increase to:  
  - 14 days for second violation  
  - 2 months for 3rd  
  - 4 months for 4th  
  - 6 months for subsequent violations  
**Zero tolerance** (BAC up to 80 mg/dL) for novice  
BAC > 0, positive drug screen, or deemed impaired:  
- 2-month suspension + 7-day impoundment  
- 4-month suspension for second and 6 months for subsequent violations  
- Under 22 years of age and not a novice, suspensions are 7-days  
- BAC >80 mg/dL, refuse, or Impaired (bodily fluid sample)  
- 90-day suspension plus 30-day impoundment  
**Fail or refuse to comply with a demand**  
- 7-day followed by 90 day suspension  
- 30-day vehicle impoundment  
**Impaired (as determined by SFST, screening device or DRE)**  
- 90-day suspension on confirmation of lab results  
**Commercial drivers are also subject to zero tolerance for drugs and 7-day vehicle impoundment for presence of drugs or drugs and alcohol** |
| N.W.T.        | Over 50 mg/dL alcohol, adversely affected by drugs, alcohol, fatigue  
- 24-hr suspension  
- If previous suspensions, suspension increases to 30 days  
**Zero tolerance for alcohol and drugs for novice drivers and drivers under age 22**  
- 30-day suspension  
- 90-days if BAC >80 mg  
**BAC > 80 mg/dL or fail to comply with demand for SFST or evaluation by a DRE**  
- Immediate 24-hr suspension  
- 8 days later, 90-day suspension  
**Zero tolerance for alcohol and drugs for drivers of specified commercial vehicles**  
- 3-day suspension  
| N.S.          | **BAC > 50 mg/dL or suspicion of cannabis use (determined by SFST), too impaired to comply with demand and no DRE available or passed DRE evaluation**  
- 1st offence, 7-day suspension  
- 2nd offence, 15-day suspension  
- 3rd offence, 30-day suspension  
**Fail SFST**  
- 24-hr suspension if criminal investigation pending  
**Zero tolerance for alcohol and drugs for drivers in Graduated Licence Program**  
- BAC > 0  
  - 1st offence, 7-day suspension  
  - 2nd offence, 15-day suspension  
  - 3rd offence, 30-day suspension  
  - Positive drug screen or unfit for any reason  
  - 24-hr suspension  
  - Exemption for legal medical use  
**BAC ≥ 80 mg/dL or SFST or DRE indicates impairment**  
- 90-day suspension  
**“Look back” period for previous violations is 10 years**  
| Nvt.§         | Adversely affected by alcohol or drug (or fatigue) or BAC ≥ 50 or at least lower prescribed limit of another drug  
- 1st offence, 24-hr suspension  
- Subsequent offence BAC ≥ 50 or at least lower limit of another drug, 30-day suspension  
**Zero tolerance for alcohol and drugs for minors and novice drivers**  
- 30-day suspension  
**BAC ≥ 80 or at least the prescribed amount of another drug or combined amounts of alcohol and another drug**  
- 90-day suspension  
**Zero tolerance for alcohol and drugs for commercial operators**  
- 30-day suspension  

§ No legislation has been introduced, but Nunavut has announced its proposed approach.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Other</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Ont.</strong></td>
<td><strong>BAC ≥ 50 mg/dL or fail SFST</strong></td>
<td><strong>Zero tolerance for alcohol and drugs for novice drivers and those under 22</strong></td>
<td><strong>BAC ≥ 80 mg/dL, fail SFST or drug evaluation or refuse to comply</strong></td>
<td><strong>Zero tolerance drug and alcohol for commercial drivers</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• 1st offence, 3-day suspension + $250</td>
<td>• 1st offence, 3-day suspension, $250 fine</td>
<td>• Licence suspension for 90 days</td>
<td>• Licence suspension for 3 days</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• 2nd offence, 7-day suspension + $350</td>
<td>• 2nd offence, 7 days, $350 fine</td>
<td>• 7-day vehicle impoundment</td>
<td>• $250 monetary penalty on 1st offence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• 3rd offence, 30-day suspension + $450</td>
<td>• 3rd offence, 30 days, $450 fine</td>
<td>• $550 monetary penalty</td>
<td>• $350 on 2nd</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• $250 monetary penalty on 1st offence</td>
<td>• Possible provincial charge - on conviction, $60-$500 fine, and 30-day suspension</td>
<td>• Education or treatment program</td>
<td>• $450 on 3rd and subsequent</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• $350 on 2nd</td>
<td>• Mandatory education or treatment programs may apply for repeat offenders</td>
<td>• Repeat offences may lead to education or treatment program</td>
<td>• Repeat offences may lead to education or treatment program</td>
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<td>• $450 on 3rd and subsequence</td>
<td>• Exemption for medical use</td>
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<td>• Other penalties such as mandatory education or treatment programs</td>
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<td><strong>P.E.I.</strong></td>
<td><strong>BAC &gt; 50, or on basis of SFST or other drug test for drugs, officers believes unable to drive safely</strong></td>
<td><strong>Zero tolerance for alcohol and drugs for novice drivers or under 22 years of age</strong></td>
<td><strong>BAC &gt;80 mg/dL, over drug limit, believed impaired, or fail to comply</strong></td>
<td><strong>Zero tolerance for commercial drivers</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• 1st offence, 7 day suspension + 3-day impoundment</td>
<td>• 24-hr suspension</td>
<td>• Immediate 24-hr suspension</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• 2nd offence, 30-day suspension + 7-day impoundment</td>
<td>• 90-day driver licence suspension effective 7 days later</td>
<td>• 90-day suspension effective 7 days later</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• 3rd offence, 90-day suspension + 30-day impoundment</td>
<td>• Possible 30-day vehicle impoundment</td>
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<td></td>
<td>(subsequent offences within 3 years)</td>
<td><strong>Exemption for medical use if evidence is solely on basis of drug presence</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Que.</strong></td>
<td><strong>Zero tolerance policy for driving under the influence of any drug or drug and alcohol</strong></td>
<td><strong>Zero tolerance for drivers with a learner’s or probationary licence and those 21 years of age or younger</strong></td>
<td><strong>BAC ≥ 80 mg/dL</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td>• 90-day suspension</td>
<td>• Immediate 90-day suspension</td>
<td>• 90-day suspension</td>
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<td>• Fine of $300 - $600</td>
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Canadian Centre on Substance Use and Addiction • Centre canadien sur les dépendances et l’usage de substances  Page 9
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Prov. / Terr.</th>
<th>Administrative Penalties for Alcohol or Drugs below Criminal Limits</th>
<th>Young/Novice Drivers†</th>
<th>Administrative Actions for Criminal Offence (Alcohol or Drug)‡</th>
<th>Other</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Sask.       | BAC > 40 mg/dL, SFST or positive drug-screen  
  • 1st offence, 3-day suspension + 3-day impoundment + Driving Without Impairment program  
  • 2nd offence, 21-day suspension + 7-day impoundment + Alcohol and Drug Education program  
  • 3rd offence, 90-day suspension + 14-day impound + Addiction assessment + interlock  
  • If passengers under age 16, suspension length is 7, 30, or 120 days and impoundment is for 7, 30, or 60 days, respectively | Zero tolerance for alcohol and drugs for drivers in the Graduated Driver Licencing program, and for those 21 and under  
  • 1st offence, 60-day suspension + 3-day impoundment + Driving Without Impairment program  
  • 2nd offence, 120-day suspension + 7-day impoundment + Alcohol and Drug Education program  
  • 3rd offence, 18-month suspension + 7-day impound + Addiction assessment + interlock  
  • If passengers under age 16, impoundment is 7, 30, or 60 days, respectively | Impaired, BAC >80, over drug per se limit, fail to comply  
  • Immediate suspension of licence until the court has disposed of the charge  
  • 30-day vehicle impoundment  
  • 60 days if BAC > 160 mg/dL or fail to comply with demand | ▪ “Look-back” period for repeat violations is 10 years |
| Y.T.        | Zero tolerance for alcohol and drugs for drivers in graduated licensing program  
  • 24-hr suspension  
  • Possible impoundment | BAC > 80 or refusal  
  • 90-day suspension (effective 14 days after offence)  
  • minimum 30-day impoundment | |
Short-term Administrative Sanctions for Alcohol and Drug Use by Drivers


