MEDICAL STANDARDS FOR DRIVERS

INTRODUCTION

Medical advisors and administrators from all Canadian provincial driver licensing bodies developed the medical standards used in Alberta. The Department of Transportation has the final responsibility to determine driver fitness. A person who holds or applies for an Operator’s Licence must immediately disclose to the Registrar a disease or disability that may be expected to interfere with the safe operation of a motor vehicle.

Commercial drivers require a higher level of fitness because of the nature of their cargo, types of vehicles being driven, nature of physical work, exposure due to significant number of kilometres driven number and the consequence of a collision involving a large motor vehicle.

Some of the diseases or disabilities that may interfere with the safe operation of motor vehicles can be found in these categories:

1. VISUAL \<\text{(e.g. minimum correct vision, double vision, telescopic lenses)}\>
2. HEARING \<\text(e.g. vertigo, and issues particular to commercial drivers)}\>
3. CARDIOVASCULAR DISEASES \<\text(e.g. heart)}\>
4. CEREBROVASCULAR DISEASES \<\text(e.g. stroke)}\>
5. PERIPHERAL VASCULAR DISEASES \<\text(e.g. aneurysm and veins)}\>
6. DISEASES OF THE NERVOUS SYSTEM \<\text(e.g. seizures, sleep disorders, dementia)}\>
7. RESPIRATORY DISEASES \<\text(e.g. lungs)}\>
8. METABOLIC DISEASES \<\text(e.g. diabetes, parathyroid, pituitary, adrenal)}\>
9. RENAL DISEASE \<\text(e.g. kidneys)}\>
10. MUSCULOSKELETAL DISABILITIES \<\text(e.g. arms, legs, spine, paraplegia and quadraplegia)}\>
11. PSYCHIATRIC DISORDERS \<\text(e.g. mental, emotional, personality, psychotic)}\>
12. THE EFFECTS OF DRUGS \<\text(e.g. sedatives, tranquillisers, antidepressants, narcotics)}\>
13. THE EFFECTS OF ALCOHOL \<\text(e.g. alcohol dependency)}\>
14. AGEING ISSUES \<\text(e.g. lack of attention, poor judgement, confusion, loss of strength, slow reaction time, progressive dementia)}\>

A person who holds or applies for an Operator’s Licence must immediately disclose to the Registrar a disease or disability that may be expected to interfere with the safe operation of a motor vehicle.

The presence of a related medical condition does not necessarily mean that a person ability to drive will be restricted, however in order to determine the effect of the condition on driver fitness the department must review the related factors such as term of illness, treatment, medications and other factors.

VISION
Acuity
Colour Vision
Visual Field Defects
Scotoma
Hemianopsia and Quadrantic Field Defects
Diplopia
Corrective Devices
Telescopic Lenses

HEARING

Loss of hearing

CARDIOVASCULAR DISEASES

Cardiac Inflammation and Infections (acute pericarditis or myocarditis)
Congenital Heart Defects
Coronary Artery Disease
Acute Myocardial Infarction, Unstable Angina
Suspected Asymptomatic Coronary Artery Disease
Coronary Angioplasty
Coronary Artery Bypass Surgery
Left Main Coronary Disease
Disturbance of Cardiac Rhythm
Premature Atrial or Ventricular Contractions
Ventricular Fibrillation, "Sustained" Ventricular Tachycardia
Non-sustained Paroxysmal Ventricular Tachycardia, Paroxysmal Supraventricular
Chronic Atrial Flutter or Fibrillation
Sinus Node Dysfunction (Sick Sinus Syndrome)
Carotid Sinus Hypersensitivity
Atrioventricular and Intraventricular Block
Artificial Cardiac Pacemakers
Implantable Cardioverter/Defibrillator
Valvular Heart Disease
Medically Treated or Untreated Valvular Heart Disease (Including Percutaneous Valvuloplasty)
Surgically Treated Valvular Heart Disease
Congestive Heart Failure, Left Ventricular Dysfunction, Cardiomyopathy
Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy
Mitral Valve Prolapse
Cardiac Transplantation
Hypertension

CEREBROVASCULAR DISEASES

Cerebrovascular Insufficiency
Cerebrovascular Accidents (Stroke) Attacks

PERIPHERAL VASCULAR DISEASES

Aortic Aneurysm
Cerebral Aneurysm
Peripheral Arterial Vascular Disease
Diseases of the Veins

DISEASES OF THE NERVOUS SYSTEM

The Nervous System and Driving
Syncope (Unexpected Loss of Consciousness or Awareness)
Seizures
Narcolepsy and Other Sleep Disorders
Sleep Apnea
Vestibular Disorders
Disorders of Coordination and Muscle Control
Mental Deficiency and Retardation
Dementia
Head Injury
Intracranial Tumour

RESPIRATORY DISEASES

Chronic Obstructive Lung Disease
Chronic Pulmonary Disease Necessitating Supplementary Oxygen
Tracheostomy

METABOLIC DISEASES

Diabetes Mellitus
Hypoglycemia
Thyroid Diseases
Pituitary Diseases
Adrenal Diseases

RENAL DISEASE

Role of Chronic Renal Failure in Driving
Driving Hazards Associated with Intermittent Hemo Dialysis
Renal Transplant

MUSCULOSKELETAL DISABILITIES

Musculoskeletal Disabilities and Driving
Disabilities of the Limbs
Disabilities of the Spine

PSYCHIATRIC DISORDERS

Mental Disorders and Driving
Emotional Disorders
Personality Disorders
Psychotic Illnesses
Psychiatric Therapy

THE EFFECTS OF DRUGS

Sedatives
Major Tranquilizers and Antidepressants
Narcotics
Hallucinogens
CNS Stimulants (Amphetamines)

THE EFFECTS OF ALCOHOL

Habitual Alcoholic Intoxication

THE AGEING DRIVER

The Effects of the Ageing Process on Driving Ability