

Repeal of Seat Belt Exemptions

Fact Sheet

What is happening?

The provision of the *Motor Vehicle Act* (MVA) that enables the Superintendent of Motor Vehicles to exempt adults and children age 9 and older from the requirement to wear a seat belt, has been repealed.

What does this mean?

This means that as of February 26, 2014, you will no longer be able to submit applications to the Superintendent of Motor Vehicles seeking an exemption for adults and children age 9 and older from the requirement to wear a seat belt. Further, physicians, who currently may issue exemptions, will no longer be able to do so.

Once your existing certificate expires, you will be required to wear a properly adjusted seat belt while travelling in a motor vehicle, and will be liable for the penalties for not wearing a properly adjusted seat belt if you do not do so.

Drivers who currently have seat belt exemptions will maintain their exemption status until their expiry date.

Why are we doing this?

The repeal of the authority to grant seat belt exemptions is intended to increase public safety, and to address concerns raised by the medical community.

The *Canadian Medical Association's Driver's Guide* states in Section 24 that "there are no medical circumstances that justify exemption from wearing a seat belt."

Medical practitioners in British Columbia also supported the repeal of the authority to grant exemptions.

For more information . . .

- RoadSafetyBC website: www.gov.bc.ca/roadsafetybc
- Phone 250 387-7747 (in Victoria)