



Wonderful vacation

The period before vacation is often just as exciting as the vacation itself. You imagine the moments of your vacation without worries or disappointment, but full of flavor, pleasure and relaxation. So to avoid problems that may decide to accompany you on your vacation, take the following measures.

Automobile

If you visit our neighbors to the south, make sure your civil liability insurance coverage is enough to cover the financial impacts of injuries caused to others in an accident. The minimum amount prescribed by the Quebec Automobile Insurance Act is approximately \$50,000 for automobiles, but we suggest a minimum of \$2,000,000, as well as an additional amount by means of a supplementary civil liability policy (umbrella).

Example: On his way to a golf tournament in New York State, Jack hits the car of a 30 year-old American dentist who was going to the same tournament. The American dentist loses the use of his right hand in the accident that Jack is held responsible for. The American dentist claims, in addition to his pain, suffering and inconvenience, his loss of income for the 35 years of practice that remain in his career.

Supposing that he would have made an annual income of US\$100,000, he would have lost US\$3,500,000 in income (35 times \$100,000), which, when converted into Canadian dollars, comes out to around \$5 million.

Make sure you have rider F.A.Q. No. 27. It is very important and can be used to cover civil liability for damage to vehicles not belonging to the insured (Canada and the United States). It is particularly useful for short-term car rentals.

The insurer covers only the designated driver, his/her spouse and anyone else named in a F.A.Q. No. 2, a rider naming the additional insured drivers. For short-term car rentals, it is essential to let only the insured people drive. Otherwise the driver not covered by the insurance will have to pay the damage he/she caused to the car.

Example: You are in Florida and rent a car. After a meal at a restaurant washed down with plenty of alcohol, you realize that you are not fit to drive. You ask your friend Luke (not mentioned in your F.A.Q. No. 2 rider) to drive the car to the hotel while you take a snooze in the back seat. Luke runs a red light and the car receives \$20,000 of damage. Unless Luke has his own insurance, he will have to pay for the car damage out of his own pocket, since he isn't covered by your rider.

Recreational boats

For your civil liability insurance for recreational boats to be valid, you have to respect the regulation concerning the age of operators:

- For children under 12, the maximum engine power **authorized** is 10HP.
- For drivers between 12 and 16 years old, the maximum engine power **authorized** is 40HP.
- **In addition, persons under 16 are not allowed to operate personal watercraft.**
- Finally, any driver born after April 1, 1983 must have in his/her possession, on board the craft, proof that he/she is qualified to drive an engine-powered craft.

For all additional information about the regulations, you must call the Coast Guard at 1 800 267-6687.

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Allowing someone who isn't qualified or doesn't have the authorization required to drive your boat may compromise your right to compensation from the insurer.

Off-road vehicles

Likewise, under the Act respecting off-highway vehicles (mini bikes, mini-compact cars, all-terrain vehicles, dune buggies) in force since 1997, all operators of these vehicles must be at least 14 years old and, if they are under 16, they must obtain a certificate from a government-authorized officer attesting that they are competent to operate these vehicles.

It should be noted that some measures are also intended for all operators, or in other words, persons aged 16 and up. The law states: "To operate an off-highway vehicle on a public highway as provided in this Act, a person must hold a licence authorizing him... to drive a road vehicle on such a highway ..."

It is very important to respect this regulation, since the insurer offers no protection against insureds who let drivers without legal authorization operate their vehicle. It is therefore your responsibility to check with all drivers, whether they are your children, a parent, a friend or someone else, to find out if they have a certificate or licence authorizing them to drive.

Enjoy your vacation!