Driver licensing bulletin

Emergency extension of exemption from driver licensing requirements

New driver licensing exemptions are in place for COVID-19 mitigation.

For the purposes of the exemption granted under this Bulletin, the "end of the COVID-19 emergency" means the earlier of the following:

- the date on which the provincial health officer provides notice under section 59 (b) of the Public Health Act that the COVID-19 emergency has passed;
- the date on which the last extension of the declaration of a state of emergency, made on March 18, 2020, under section 9 of the Emergency Program Act, expires or is cancelled.

Under the authority of section 30F.02(1) of the Motor Vehicle Act Regulations (MVAR), ICBC exempts the following persons from the requirements under the Motor Vehicle Act (MVA) respecting the holding of a driver's licence issued under the MVA. This exemption applies until a date that is 90 days after the "end of the COVID-19 emergency." Specific persons exempted, on the condition that the person complies with all other requirements of section 34 of the MVA, are as follows:

**Extension of Licensing Exemption for Visitors to B.C.**

A person who was exempt under section 34 (1.1) (a) of the MVA but whose exemption ended after March 16, 2020 and before the date that is 90 days after the end of the COVID-19 emergency, provided that the exemption ended solely because it is more than six months from the date the person last entered British Columbia.

**Extension of Licensing Exemption for New B.C. Residents**

A person who was exempt under section 34 (1.1) (b) of the MVA but whose exemption ended after March 16, 2020 and before the date that is 90 days after the end of the COVID-19 emergency, provided that the exemption ended solely because it was more than 90 days after the date the person became ordinarily resident in British Columbia.

**Extension of Licensing Exemption for Non-resident Students**

A person who was exempt under section 34 (1.1) (c) of the MVA but whose exemption ended after March 16, 2020 and before the date that is 90 days after the
end of the COVID-19 emergency, because the person, as a result of the COVID-19 emergency, ceased to be registered as a full-time student at and attending any of the educational institutions listed in section 21 (2) (b) of the MVA.

**Vehicle Insurance exemption**

A person exempt above is also exempt for the same period, while driving or operating in British Columbia a motor vehicle set out in section 34 (1) (b), (c) or (d) of the MVA, from the requirements respecting the holding of a motor vehicle liability insurance card or a financial responsibility card, subject, in every case, to his or her giving the Insurance Corporation of British Columbia proof of financial responsibility under sections 106 to 113 of the MVA.

**Other considerations**

The exemptions identified in this Bulletin may be amended by ICBC, in accordance with section 30F.02(1) of the MVAR.

Out-of-province driver’s licence holders must continue to hold a valid and subsisting driver’s licence in their own (or previous for new to B.C. residents) licensing jurisdiction and must continue to abide by all requirements of that licence. It is possible that these drivers are operating under interim measures announced in the relevant jurisdiction.

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