

Traffic Tip: Have your documents ready

A police officer has the power to stop any car operating on a highway (any publicly owned street) at any time to inspect the vehicle for licencing, insurance, mechanical fitness, and to check the driver for sobriety. If you are stopped by police, you must be able to surrender a valid driver's licence, a copy of the permit for the motor vehicle and licence plate, and proof of insurance. All your documents must be current and valid. In addition, you must have a validation sticker on one of the plates, the rear plate for passenger cars, or the front plate for commercial vehicles.

It is essential that the driver of every motor vehicle has these documents, as set out in the Highway Traffic Act and the Compulsory Automobile Insurance Act. The fines for not having these documents range from \$55 for the insurance proof to \$110 for your licence and permit.

Often, we hear the excuse that drivers don't have the documents available because they are afraid that they will be stolen from the vehicle. In that case, keep them in your wallet for those occasions when an officer asks to see them. Your licence cannot be copied, and should never be left in your car.

Police officers are in the safety business, and it is incumbent upon us to keep suspended or unlicensed drivers and uninsured vehicles from the roadway. Do your part in making our streets safer, have your documents ready, current and with you in your motor vehicle.