

# New Act Strengthens Motor Vehicle Safety: Minister Gains Expanded Powers

March 06, 2018

This legislation introduces significant amendments to the Motor Vehicle Safety Act, S.C. 1993 c. 16.

On March 1, 2018, Bill S-2, the Strengthening Motor Vehicle Safety for Canadians Act, SC 2018, c. 2, received Royal Assent and is now in force. This legislation introduces **significant amendments to the Motor Vehicle Safety Act, S.C. 1993 c. 16**. The stated purpose of the legislation is to strengthen the enforcement and compliance regime in Canada, and to bring the Canadian regulatory scheme into greater harmony with the U.S. scheme.

The Minister of Transport has acquired expanded authority under the new legislation, including the power to:

- issue a recall;
- order the payment of costs to correct a defect or non-compliance;
- prohibit sale until a defect or non-compliance is corrected; and
- order tests, analyses, or studies on a motor vehicle or equipment.

Inspectors have also been granted greater authority under the new statutory scheme. The new legislation also confers the power on the minister to assess administrative monetary penalties for contravention of the act or the regulations, although this provision will only come into force on a date to be fixed by the Governor in Council. Industry stakeholders are advised to be aware of the new regulatory climate.

Should you have any questions on compliance issues or requirements, please contact your **BLG professional or a member of our Automotive Group**.

By

Calvin Hancock, Larry Elliot

Expertise

Insurance Claim Defence, Automotive

---

**BLG | Canada's Law Firm**

As the largest, truly full-service Canadian law firm, Borden Ladner Gervais LLP (BLG) delivers practical legal advice for domestic and international clients across more practices and industries than any Canadian firm. With over 800 lawyers, intellectual property agents and other professionals, BLG serves the legal needs of businesses and institutions across Canada and beyond – from M&A and capital markets, to disputes, financing, and trademark & patent registration.

[blg.com](http://blg.com)

**BLG Offices****Calgary**

Centennial Place, East Tower  
520 3rd Avenue S.W.  
Calgary, AB, Canada  
T2P 0R3  
  
T 403.232.9500  
F 403.266.1395

**Ottawa**

World Exchange Plaza  
100 Queen Street  
Ottawa, ON, Canada  
K1P 1J9  
  
T 613.237.5160  
F 613.230.8842

**Vancouver**

1200 Waterfront Centre  
200 Burrard Street  
Vancouver, BC, Canada  
V7X 1T2  
  
T 604.687.5744  
F 604.687.1415

**Montréal**

1000 De La Gauchetière Street West  
Suite 900  
Montréal, QC, Canada  
H3B 5H4  
  
T 514.954.2555  
F 514.879.9015

**Toronto**

Bay Adelaide Centre, East Tower  
22 Adelaide Street West  
Toronto, ON, Canada  
M5H 4E3  
  
T 416.367.6000  
F 416.367.6749

The information contained herein is of a general nature and is not intended to constitute legal advice, a complete statement of the law, or an opinion on any subject. No one should act upon it or refrain from acting without a thorough examination of the law after the facts of a specific situation are considered. You are urged to consult your legal adviser in cases of specific questions or concerns. BLG does not warrant or guarantee the accuracy, currency or completeness of this publication. No part of this publication may be reproduced without prior written permission of Borden Ladner Gervais LLP. If this publication was sent to you by BLG and you do not wish to receive further publications from BLG, you may ask to remove your contact information from our mailing lists by emailing [unsubscribe@blg.com](mailto:unsubscribe@blg.com) or manage your subscription preferences at [blg.com/MyPreferences](http://blg.com/MyPreferences). If you feel you have received this message in error please contact [communications@blg.com](mailto:communications@blg.com). BLG's privacy policy for publications may be found at [blg.com/en/privacy](http://blg.com/en/privacy).

© 2026 Borden Ladner Gervais LLP. Borden Ladner Gervais LLP is an Ontario Limited Liability Partnership.