



News Release

May 28, 2009

By Order 89/09, following a public hearing of Manitoba Public Insurance's (MPI) application with respect to the introduction of the Driver Safety Rating (DSR) program, the Public Utilities Board (Board) varies MPI's application and approves the implementation of DSR as of March 1, 2010.

Among the variances established by the Board, the initial lower driver and vehicle premiums (to be available pursuant to the DSR) to drivers and vehicle owners will be restricted to those drivers who have had neither an at-fault accident nor a driving infraction for fifteen years. In time, given that a full transition to DSR occurs by 2013, substantially higher premium savings will be available to drivers with good driving records, while the penalties for drivers with poor driving records will be much higher than currently. By its Order, the Board also limits the impact of an infraction and/or an at-fault accident to one vehicle when more than one vehicle is registered by a motorist, this to reduce the comparative advantages now provided multi-vehicle multi-driver households compared to multi-vehicle single-driver households.

The Board also makes a number of recommendations towards improving the DSR over time, and reiterates its recommendation to government that that the Board's jurisdiction be extended to include MPI's non-Basic insurance divisions.

The Board expressed the view that DSR, which will replace the longstanding and current bonus/malus program of merits, demerits, discounts and surcharges, will serve to motivate drivers to drive safely, so as to bring down the annual toll of injuries and deaths on Manitoba's roadways. DSR will better match driver/vehicle premium levels with risk.

A copy of this Order, and past Orders concerning MPI that contain related information, may either be reviewed on the Board's website www.pub.gov.mb.ca, or obtained from the Board's Office.

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