



Note No. XDC-4146

The Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade presents its compliments to the Heads of Diplomatic Missions, Consular Posts and International Organizations and has the honour to remind them that Police Forces have now begun the "REDUCE IMPAIRED DRIVERS EVERYWHERE" (R.I.D.E.) Program for 1996-1997. Police officers will stop cars at random to check for impaired drivers. While diplomats are immune from testing, it is necessary that drivers properly identify themselves before the vehicles will be allowed to proceed.

The Department also wishes to remind that while Consular Officers, serving at Consulates cannot be tested without cause in the R.I.D.E. program, the police officer in confirming the drivers identification, may if the driver shows signs of impairment, request the driver to take a road side screening test and/or breathalyser test.

The Department wishes to inform Heads of Diplomatic Missions, Consular Posts and International Organizations of the new 90 day driver's licence suspension rule in Ontario. Any Consular Officer who is tested and charged with driving with over 80 milligrams of alcohol in 100 millilitres of blood or who refuses to take the road side screen test or who refuses to take the breathalyser test will automatically have their driver's licence suspended for 90 days. Additionally a 12 hour suspension will continue to be issued to those persons who show a "warning level of alcohol" on the road side screening test.

The Department appreciates the coopération extended to police authorities in their efforts to reduce alcohol related accidents.

The Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Heads of Diplomatic Missions, Consular Posts and International Organizations the assurances of its highest consideration.

OTTAWA, December 5, 1996

