

Quebec legislates snow tires, no phones

by UPI

QUEBEC CITY, Quebec -- The Canadian province of Quebec has issued tough new driving laws, including mandatory winter tires, a ban on cell phone use and speed governors on trucks. Quebec Premier Jean Charest's minority government had support for the measures but failed to have the legal blood-alcohol limit lowered from 0.08 percent to 0.05 percent, the Globe & Mail reported. Under the law, all vehicles registered in the province must have winter tires on between Nov. 15 and April 15 beginning next year. Transportation officials said about 90 percent of Quebecers already use the heavier grade tires, the report said. The new law also bans the use of hand-held cell phones by drivers beginning Jan. 1, and requires new drivers to take certified driver's education courses. Heavy trucks will also require speed governors that allow a maximum speed of 60 mph, the report said. Quebec Minister of Transportation Julie Boulet said a pilot program of installing photo radars and cameras at traffic lights in 15 communities would also begin next year. In 2006, 717 people were killed in Quebec road accidents, transportation officials said.

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