



CANADIAN INSTITUTE OF PLUMBING & HEATING  
L'INSTITUT CANADIEN DE PLOMBERIE ET DE CHAUFFAGE

# ADVOCACY LINK

NATIONAL & REGIONAL REGULATORY NEWS

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## Bill 118 - Now in effect!

The Legislative Assembly of Ontario carried Bill 118, an amendment to the Highway Traffic Act which now bans drivers from using handheld devices with display screens while operating a vehicle on the road. The bill has undergone several revisions during its consideration, but the new rules of the road will be as follows:

- Holding or using a wireless communication device (a cell phone) or a portable electronic entertainment device (iPod) while driving is prohibited.
- Commercial GPS units along with similar dashboard-mounted devices that provide gauges and displays relating to logistical or navigation uses are fine.
- Using a cell phone or wireless communication device in hands-free mode, as long as you're not holding it during use, is fine.
- Using any device while pulled-over or parked in a way that you are not disrupting traffic, is fine.
- The systems used by Ambulances, Fire Departments, and Law Enforcement are exempt.

The ban is in effect as of today, September 1, 2009 and will carry a fine of \$500. Demerit points will not be included, but depending upon the violation, police will have the option to also use existing careless driving laws for additional penalties.

The Canadian Institute of Plumbing & Heating is a not-for-profit trade association. Founded in 1933, the Institute is a vibrant organization committed to providing members with the tools for success in today's competitive environment. More than 250 companies are members of this influential Canadian industry association. They are the manufacturers, wholesaler distributors, master distributors, manufacturers' agents and allied companies who manufacture and distribute plumbing, hydronic heating, industrial, waterworks and other mechanical products. CIPH wholesalers operate more than 700 warehouses and showrooms across Canada. Total industry sales exceed \$5 billion annually.

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