

**Ministry of Public and
Business Service Delivery**

**Ministère des services au
public et aux entreprises**

Inspections, Investigations and
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To: All appointees and registrants under the *Bailiffs Act*

Registrar's Bulletin – October 2023

Towing and Storage Safety and Enforcement Act Requirements

In June 2021, the Ontario government passed the *Towing and Storage Safety and Enforcement Act (TSSEA)* to provide provincial oversight of the towing and vehicle storage sectors.

The TSSEA establishes a provincial oversight framework for the towing and vehicle storage sector replacing former municipal regimes. Operators and tow truck drivers have to comply only with the provincial regime. The Act requires tow operators, tow truck drivers, and vehicle storage operators to have a provincial certificate to operate.

The Ministry of Transportation (MTO) is implementing towing requirements in several phases:

- 1. January 1, 2023** (in effect already): new HTA [requirements](#) that apply to other commercial motor vehicles and establish vehicle requirements for tow trucks (i.e., daily and annual inspections and use of a safety vest).
- 2. July 1, 2023:** Introduction of three certificate types: Tow Operator, Tow Truck Driver and Vehicle Storage Operator. On July 4, 2023, the [online application portal](#) launched and industry can apply for a certificate at no cost (until July 2024).
- 3. January 1, 2024:** new TSSEA requirements including customer protection and standards of practice to professionalize the industry. Tow operators and vehicle storage operators must have a certificate to operate and TSSEA enforcement begins.
- 4. July 1, 2024:** Tow truck drivers must have a certificate to drive a tow truck.

If you own or operate a tow truck as part of your bailiff business, you need to ensure you are certified under the TSSEA.

Before using a tow operator, tow truck driver or vehicle storage facility, you should ensure they are certified under the TSSEA.

I encourage you to carefully review the TSSEA to ensure that you are acting responsibly as a bailiff or assistant bailiff and in accordance with the law: [Towing and Storage Safety and Enforcement Act, 2021, S.O. 2021, c. 26, Sched. 3 \(ontario.ca\)](#).

If you have any questions regarding the TSSEA, or about certificate requirements, please visit the Ministry of Transportation's website: [Ontario.ca/towstoragecertificate](#).

Sincerely,

Christina McGrath

Registrar of Bailiffs