92. (a) We assume that the top surface of the slab is at the surface of the water and that the automobile is at the center of the ice surface. Let M be the mass of the automobile, ρ_i be the density of ice, and ρ_w be the density of water. Suppose the ice slab has area A and thickness h. Since the volume of ice is Ah, the downward force of gravity on the automobile and ice is $(M + \rho_i Ah)g$. The buoyant force of the water is $\rho_w Ahg$, so the condition of equilibrium is $(M + \rho_i Ah)g - \rho_w Ahg = 0$ and

$$A = \frac{M}{(\rho_w - \rho_i)h} = \frac{1100\,\text{kg}}{\left(998\,\text{kg/m}^3 - 917\,\text{kg/m}^3\right)(0.30\text{m})} = 45\ \text{m}^2.$$

These density values are found in Table 14-1 of the text.

(b) It does matter where the car is placed since the ice tilts if the automobile is not at the center of its surface.