

Spring Road Restrictions

Protecting Manitoba's Roads during Spring Thaw

Spring Road Restrictions Policies

The purpose of Spring Road Restrictions is to protect Manitoba's surfaced roads from damage caused when thawing and spring rains weaken the bases of some Manitoba roads. Protecting these roads, by reducing the allowable weight of vehicles traveling on them, reduces costly repairs and helps provide smooth riding surfaces for Manitobans during the rest of the year.

This brochure provides general information on Spring Road Restrictions to help road users prepare for reduced loading, and plan trips to avoid restricted roads. *The Highway Traffic Act* and Spring Road Restrictions Order should be consulted for precise legal requirements.

Restriction Levels

The Spring Road Restrictions Program reduces allowable weights based on a percentage of normal axle loading.

Loading levels are:

Level 1 Restrictions: RTAC, Class A1 and B1 Highways	90% of normal axle weight
Level 2 Restrictions: Class A1 and B1 Highways	65% of normal axle weight

Steering Axles

To address technological changes, such as set-back steering axles, the allowable weights for steering axles are as follows:

Level 1 Restrictions:

- Normal loading, to a maximum of 5,500 kilograms, is allowed.

Level 2 Restrictions:

- Except for vehicles carrying Essential Commodities, Level 2 restrictions (65 per cent of normal loading) will apply to all axles, including the steering axle.

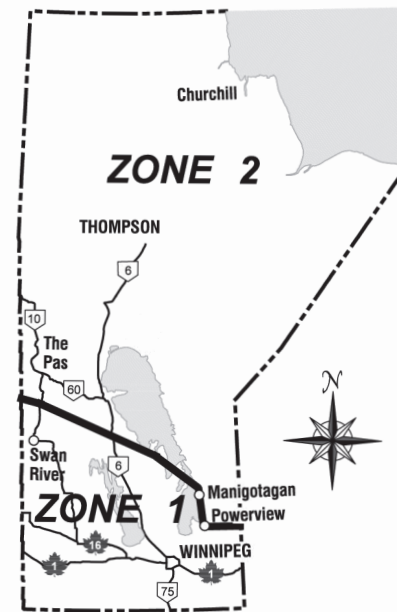
Start Dates

To reduce the amount of damage that can occur at the beginning of the spring thaw, there are fixed start dates in place, based on recent thaw patterns. These are expected to be in effect most years.

	Start Date*	End Date
Zone 1 Level 1 and 2	March 18	May 26**
Zone 2 Level 1 and 2	March 25	May 31

* The start date may be delayed in years of late thaw, based on the thaw index. In this case, a later start date will be communicated to industry, with 48-hours notice, through fax polling, the Internet and the Road Information Line.

** Can be delayed up to May 31 when start date is delayed.



Essential Commodities

It is in the public interest that certain commodities and/or vehicles be allowed to travel, *on a limited basis*, on Level 2 restricted roads while carrying Level 1 weights. These

are separated into two 'Essential Commodities' lists: those that do not require a permit (Permit Exemptions List) and those that require a permit (Permit Required List).

Essential Commodities Provisions

The following provisions apply to loads of Essential Commodities, and to roads not designated as "65% of Normal Axle Loads, Exemptions by Permit Only."

- Inter-city passenger buses, school buses and highway maintenance vehicles (operated by, or on behalf of, a traffic authority) may travel on Level 2 restricted highways at Level 1 restricted weights.
- Vehicles transporting Essential Commodities are permitted limited travel on Level 2 restricted highways at Level 1 restricted weights, under the following conditions:
 - if the Level 2 restricted highway connects two points on the vehicle's itinerary that are less than 10 kilometres apart, or if the highway is the most direct route between a point on the itinerary and the nearest highway not restricted to Level 2 *and*
 - if the Essential Commodities are transported between midnight to 12:00 noon during the first 14 days of Spring Road Restrictions, or at any time of the day after the 14th day of Spring Road Restrictions.

Vehicles travelling empty – prior to picking up Essential Commodities or after having delivered them – may travel at any time of the day on Level 2 restricted highways while carrying Level 1 weights, as long as the trip complies with condition 2(a) above.

A. Essential Commodities – Permit Exemptions List

The following commodities *do not require* a permit, when transported under the conditions outlined in this brochure, and specified in the Spring Road Restrictions orders.

- livestock feed in transit as follows:
 - grain en route from producer to processor
 - unprocessed grain required for feed

- processed livestock feed
- hay for feed intra-provincially
 - livestock in transit
 - to and from market or pasture
 - as the result of a sale
 - drinking water
 - bulk milk
 - seed between supplier, farm or field
 - groceries
 - pharmaceuticals and medical supplies
 - fuel
 - fertilizer
 - municipal refuse in transit to the nearest landfill site
 - equipment and materials required for emergencies, including forest fires, floods, train derailments, pipeline spills, etc.

B. Essential Commodities – Permit Required List

The following commodities *do require* a permit from Manitoba Infrastructure and Transportation. Permits may be issued *only* in cases where they are necessary to prevent undue hardship or for economic necessity.

- grain to satisfy grain quotas or contracts
- potatoes or vegetables from producer to processor
- irreducible loads of heavy construction or industrial machinery
- pregnant mares' urine
- fish
- crude oil

Other requests for permits will be considered, at the discretion of the department, in situations where it is determined to be in the public interest.

Documentation or permit showing the Essential Commodity that is being transported, including its origin and its destination, must be carried in the vehicle. Documentation can consist of bills of lading, sales receipts and log books.

Maximum Allowable Weights (in kilograms)

Example for Truck-Tractor and Semi-Trailer with 280 mm/11-inch Tires

Axle Loading	Steering Axle	Single Axle	Tandem	Tridem
RTAC 90% (normal)	5,500 (5,500)	8,190 (9,100)	15,300 (17,000)	20,700 (23,000)
A1 90% (normal)	5,500 (5,500)	8,190 (9,100)	14,400 (16,000)	20,700 (23,000)
A1 65%	3,575	5,915	10,400	14,950
B1 90% (normal)	5,500 (5,500)	7,380 (8,200)	13,050 (14,500)	18,000 (20,000)
B1 65%	3,575	5,330	9,425	13,000

"Exemptions by Permit Only" Routes

Exemptions by Permit Only signs will be posted under the standard 65% of Normal Axle Loads signs, on certain roads listed in the restriction order. These routes may be designated where there is more than one access road to a community or location. There

will be no axle weights in excess of 65% of normal loading allowed, including Essential Commodities. In emergency situations, the department may issue permits.

Sources of Information

NEWSPAPERS: In the autumn preceding Spring Road Restrictions, as well as in the weeks leading up to the start date, bulletins will advertise that the Spring Road Restrictions Order is available. Notices will appear in the following publications:

Thursday: Manitoba Co-operator

Friday: La Liberté

Saturday: Winnipeg Free Press, Brandon Sun

FAX POLLING: All bulletins are available by fax polling Permit Services at 204-945-6499.

WEBSITE: Orders, updates, tire calculation charts, restrictions map, and more are available at: <http://www.manitoba.ca/mit/srr/index.html>

ROAD INFORMATION LINE: Information will be provided by means of a verbal description of road restrictions at 204-945-3704 or 1-877-MBRoads (1-877-627-6237).

NOTE: Please check regularly for changes throughout the restrictions period. Delays to the start date will be communicated via fax polling, the Road Information Line and the website.

For further information, please contact your local Manitoba Infrastructure and Transportation office or weigh station, or call:

Permit Services: 204-945-3961 or toll-free at 1-877-812-0009

Motor Carrier Enforcement: 204-945-3890