

Bulletin 61 – Seasonal Restrictions

1. MoT imposes seasonal weight restrictions usually during the Spring of the year. The ministry is authorized under Section 66 of the *Transportation Act* and if a violation occurs, any charge should be laid under Section 66 of the *Transportation Act* and not under Section 12(1) of the *Commercial Transport Act*. With respect to overload enforcement, refer to the Overload Enforcement Policy of the Enforcement Guideline Procedures Manual.

Note: Seasonal road restrictions do not apply to vehicles with a licensed GVW of 5 500 kg or less.

2. These restrictions are intended to refer only to axle weights and are generally shown as follows:

(a) Legal axle loading

Table 1 *Commercial Transport Regulations 7.31* is exempted when determining Permissible legal weights for non-divisible loads during seasonal road restrictions Subject to minimum interaxle spacings.

- Tandem to single interaxle spacings ... >3.0 m
- Tridem to single interaxle spacings ... >3.0 m
- Tandem to tandem interaxle spacings ... >4.0 m
- Tridem to tridem interaxle spacings ... >4.20 m

Jeeps and Boosters may be utilized in combination with hiboy and lowbed semi-trailers for non-reducible loads provided the interaxle spacing condition above is met. (Table 1 applies to interaxle spacings less than the above)

It will be incumbent upon inspectors to issue overweight permits for GVW and or allowable weights in excess of Table 1 during the seasonal road restriction, provided legal axle unit weights are not exceeded, and the above interaxle spacing requirements are met.

- (b) 70% of legal axle loading
- (c) 50% of legal axle loading
- (d) When restrictions are in force such as in (b) and (c) above, a single steering axle is not restricted, according to Commercial Transport Policy. Twin steering axles are restricted to a maximum weight of 15 500 kg.
- (e) For the transportation of logs or poles the applicable percentage of weight allowances provided under Section 7.06 (l) CTAR shall apply.
- (f) During road restriction period only, tridem pony trailers will be allowed to carry the following weight: Restriction % times 24 000 kg (not to exceed 21 000 kg)

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(g) When 100% of legal axle loading restrictions are enforced, five and six axle cranes (with a boom dolly) will be allowed the following weights on the axles: 7 300 kg per axle on the first three axles and 7 500 kg per axle on the last two or three axles.

3. The notices imposing these restrictions usually state “NO OVERWEIGHT PERMITS WILL BE ISSUED.” This is NOT to be interpreted as overweight permits to under-licensed vehicles providing the axle weight do not exceed the restrictions. For roads restricted less than 100% Legal Axle the District Highways Managers may continue to provide exemptions to trucking companies, farmers, etc., using the following criteria:

- Serious economic impacts
- One-time only
- No travel in two directions
- Not on a continuous basis

These exemptions are issued by the District Highways Manager and a copy of the exemption letter is carried by the operator. Some non-reducible heavy haul loads may also require oversize/overweight permits and will be referred to weigh scales for permitting.

Highways Maintenance Contractors also are exempted and partner with the Highways Ministry to reduce potential road damage.


4. For emergency moves during seasonal load restrictions, the following procedures shall apply for those roads restricted at 100% legal axle: (See also [Bulletin 21, Paragraph 5](#)).

- (i) Once a District Highways Manager has imposed weight restrictions he may not undertake to make exceptions;
- (ii) Should requests for exceptions be received they are to be referred to the area Manager of Compliance;
- (iii) The Compliance Manager will be responsible for evaluating the claimed emergency;
- (iv) The Compliance Manager will not allow any exception to weight restrictions other than cases of a bona fide emergency;
- (v) Where more than one district is involved, the Manager of Compliance will advise all appropriate parties.

5. Beam trucks operated by the Ministry of Transportation and Highways and used to establish axle weight restrictions are allowed to operate at legal axle loadings when 70%, 50%, or lower restrictions are in effect.

6. Tow trucks which are involved in emergency situations are also exempted. The following is included with the [T-51](#) form which is used to permit the operation of overloaded axles during tow truck operations towing disabled vehicles: “During road restrictions, term overload permits are valid and single trip overload permits may be issued to operators for maximum permitted allowable weights as the unit that is disabled, broken down, or involved in an

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accident must be moved to the nearest place of repair, salvage yard, etc.” (See also [Bulletin 1](#) – Tow Cars)

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