

REMINDER CONCERNING VEHICLE LOAD AND SIZE LIMITS

Effective January 1, 2003, the self-steering axle is required for certain classes of axles

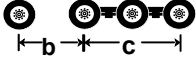
In November 1998, the Government of Québec adopted amendments to the Vehicle Load and Size Limits Regulation. One of these amendments will be applicable at the beginning of next year and concerns the self-steering axle¹. According to this Regulation, a self-steering axle will be mandatory effective January 1, 2003 for semi-trailers assembled effective from that date and equipped with a combination of four axles composed of a single axle located at the front of the combination of axles at a distance of at least 2.4 metres from the others and of a triple (tridem) axle where the distance between the axes of the leading and rear axles is 3.0 to 3.7 metres (class B.44 or B.45). However, the self-steering axle will not be mandatory before January 1, 2015 for semi-trailers assembled before January 1, 2003 and equipped with these classes of axles.

The combination of four axles for semi-trailers assembled after December 31, 2002 that are not equipped with a self-steering axle and the other characteristics of which correspond to class B.44 or B.45 will be class B.43. The load limit of this class of axles is 28,000 kilograms in a normal period.

According to the Vehicle Load and Size Limits Regulation, a penalty consisting of a 1,000 kilogram decrease in the load limit of the combination of axles is applicable in the case of a self-steering axle with only two tires. However, under the agreement in principle between Quebec and Ontario for harmonization of vehicle load and size limits, special permits are issued to allow the use of a self-steering axle with single tires, without penalty under certain conditions. Moreover, under this same agreement, an increase in the load limit is provided for a four-axle group composed of a single axle located at the front of the axle group at a distance of at least 2.4 metres from the others and of a triple axle where the distance between the axes of the leading and rear axles is 3.6 to 3.7 metres (class B.45). This agreement also provides, since August 30, 2000, for use of a four-axle group composed of a self-steering axle in front of a triple axle for a semi-trailer 16.2 metres long.

The following table summarizes the load limits applicable in a normal period effective from January 1, 2002 for these combinations of four axles depending on the semi-trailer assembly date and the presence of a self-steering axle.

1. A self-steering axle means an axle equipped at its ends with a part that can pivot around a vertical axis, allowing the wheels to turn automatically in accordance with the vehicle-path.

Combination of 4 axles (4-axle group)	Description	Semi-trailer assembly date	Self-steering axle	Load limit in normal period
A single axle in front of a tridem axle	 $b \geq 2,4 \text{ m}$ $3.0 \text{ m} \leq c \leq 3.7 \text{ m}$	Before January 1, 2003	Yes	32,000 kg ²
			No	32,000 kg ^{2 and 3}
		After December 31, 2002	Yes	32,000 kg ²
			No	28,000 kg

For more information concerning vehicle load and dimension standards, you can visit our Web site at www.mtq.gouv.qc.ca or contact Info camionnage at the telephone numbers appearing at the bottom of the first page (front) of this document.

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2. This load limit, on certain conditions, may be increased to 34,000 kilograms pursuant to a special permit issued under the agreement in principle between Quebec and Ontario for harmonization of vehicle load and size limits, when the distance between the lead and rear axles of the triple axles is between 3.6 and 3.7 metres inclusive (See Info camionnage Bulletins No. 03.08.00 of August 30, 2000 and No. 03.12.00 of December 21, 2000).
 3. This load limit is decreased to 28,000 kilograms after December 31, 2014.