

2006 SPRING THAW

VEHICLE LOAD AND SIZE LIMITS

As is true each year, authorized load limits are reduced during spring thaw on all public roads to take into account the road network's lower bearing capacity during this period. The new starting and ending dates of the restricted load period for each of the thaw zones are as follows:

	Starting Monday at	Ending Saturday at
Zone 1	12:01 a.m. March 20	12:01 a.m. May 20
Zone 2	March 27	May 27
Zone 3	March 27	May 27

The starting and ending dates of the load restriction period may be adjusted depending on weather conditions. The boundaries of the thaw zones are the same as last year.

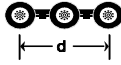

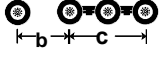
AXLE LOAD LIMITS FOR CLASS B.32, B.44 AND B.45 AXLES

In 1998, following a revision of the *Vehicle Load and Size Limits Regulation*, the coming into force of the reduced load limits stipulated in the regulation during spring thaw in respect of class B.32, B.44 and B.45 axles was postponed. Transitional provisions were applied to the three axle classes, which made it possible to maintain until now the load limits during spring thaw similar to those adopted previously (prior to 1998).

At the request of the Minister of Transport, a task force was established in 2005 comprising representatives of the industry and the ministère des Transports du Québec to assess the effect of load restrictions during spring thaw in respect of the three axle classes. In the wake of the task force's recommendations, the MTQ will apply the additional load restrictions stipulated in the *Vehicle Load and Size Limits Regulation* applicable to road vehicles and combinations of road vehicles, starting with the 2006 spring thaw.

However, to ensure better distribution of loads during spring thaw, the load limit for class B.45 axles will be 29 500 kg during spring thaw for holders of special permits authorizing a load of 34 000 kg during normal periods for this axle class.

The table below indicates the load limits:

Axle class	Description		Load limit
B.32	Triple axle or equivalent group of axles	 $3.0 \text{ m} \leq d < 3.6 \text{ m}$	21 000 kg ¹
B.44	Self-steering axle in front of a triple axle	 $b \geq 2.4 \text{ m}$ $3.0 \text{ m} \leq c < 3.6 \text{ m}$	27 500 kg
B.45	Self-steering axle in front of a triple axle	 $b \geq 2.4 \text{ m}$ $3.6 \text{ m} \leq c \leq 3.7 \text{ m}$	27 500 kg or 29 500 kg with permit

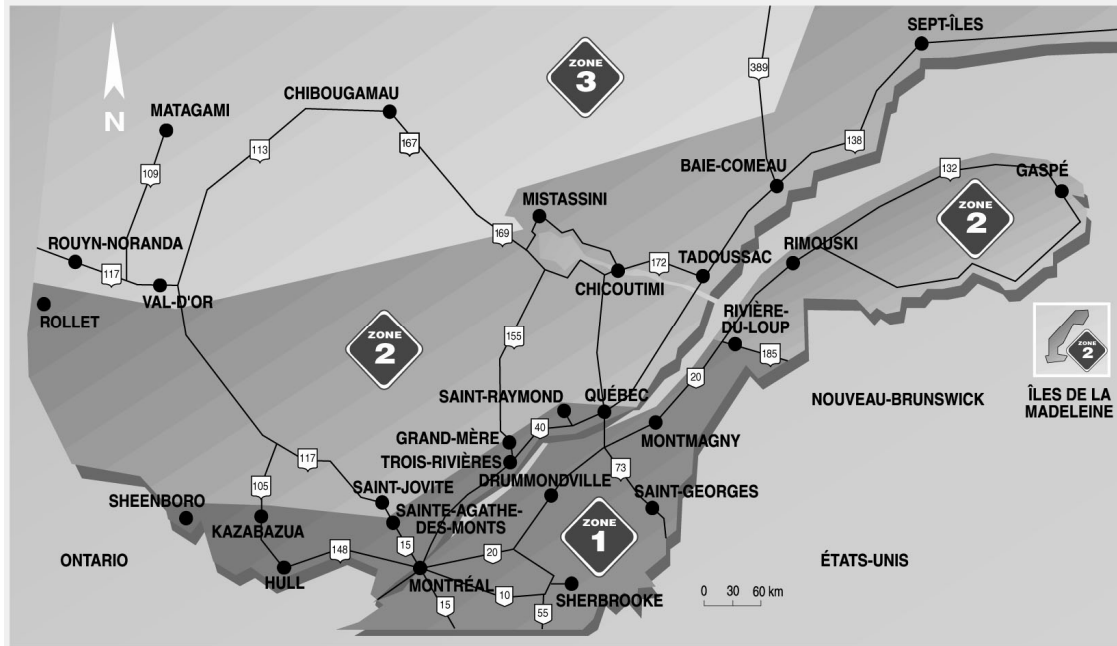
¹ This limit is reduced by 1000 kg in the case of an axle equivalent to a triple axle.

In the case of semi-trailers equipped with class B.45 triple axles, the holders of current permits will receive modified permits. Permit holders who so desire can obtain a new special permit on the MTQ Web site (<http://www.mtq.gouv.qc.ca/en/camionnage/permis/article633.asp>).

To obtain additional information on special permits or information pertaining to vehicle loads and dimensions, please consult the ministère des Transports du Québec Web site (www.mtq.gouv.qc.ca), call 1 888 355-0511 or send an e-mail to communications@mtq.gouv.qc.ca.

La version française de ce document est disponible sur demande.

2006 THAW ZONES



Zone 1: From 12:01 a.m. on March 20, 2006 to 12:01 a.m. on May 20, 2006

This zone includes the Québec territory located south of the following line of demarcation, designated hereafter as the “demarcation line of zones 1 and 2”:

From the intersection point of the median line of the Ottawa River (Québec-Ontario border) with the extension of the median line of the Schyan River in the municipality of Sheenboro; from there, eastward, a straight line to the intersection of the Picanoc River and Highway 105 in Ville de Gracefield; from there, eastward, a straight line to the intersection of Autoroute 15 and Highway 329 in the municipality of Ville de Sainte-Agathe-des-Monts; from there, northeastward to the intersection of Highways 155 and 159 in the municipality of Paroisse de Saint-Roch-de-Mékinac to the point where it intersects with the northeastern boundary of the municipality of Mandeville; from there, southeastward, following the northeastern boundary of the municipality of Mandeville to the point where it intersects with the northwestern boundary of the municipality of Paroisse de Saint-Alexis-des-Monts; from there, northeastward, a straight line to the intersection of the southwestern boundary of the municipality of Rivière-à-Pierre and the northwestern boundary of the municipality of Notre-Dame-de-Montauban; from there, northeastward, the extension of this line to its intersection with the southwestern boundary of the Portneuf wildlife reserve; from there, in a general easterly direction along the perimeter of the aforesaid wildlife reserve counterclockwise to its intersection with the northwestern limit of Ville de Saint-Raymond; from there, northeastward, then southeastward and northeastward, following the northwestern and northeastern boundaries of Ville de Saint-Raymond and then the northwestern boundary of the municipality of Saint-Gabriel-de-Valcartier to its intersection with the southwestern limit of the Laurentides wildlife reserve; from there, southeastward, and then in a general northeasterly direction, along the perimeter of the Laurentides wildlife reserve counterclockwise to its intersection with the western boundary of the Jacques-Cartier conservation park; from there, in a general southeastward, northeastward and southeastward direction, along the boundary of the Jacques-Cartier conservation park counterclockwise to its intersection with the southwestern boundary of the Laurentides wildlife reserve; from there, southeastward, along the southwestern boundary of the Laurentides wildlife reserve to its intersection with the southeastern boundary of the Highway 175 right-of-way; from there, southeastward, in a straight line to the intersection of Highway 138 with the northeastern boundary of Ville de Beaupré; from there, southeastward, the extension of this line to its intersection with the median line of the arm of the Saint Lawrence River located north of Île d'Orléans; from there, in a general northeasterly direction, successively following the median line of the aforesaid northern arm of the Saint Lawrence River, the median line of the river to the northeastern boundary of the municipality of Paroisse de Saint-Germain and then a straight line to the southwestern tip of Île aux Lièvres; from there, northeastward in a straight line to the intersection of Autoroute 20 with the northeastern boundary of Ville de Rivière-du-Loup; from there, in a general southward direction, following the perimeter of Ville de Rivière-du-Loup clockwise to its intersection with the northeastern boundary of the Highway 185 right-of-way; from there, in a general southeasterly direction, along the generally northeastern boundary of the Highway 185 right-of-way to its intersection with the New Brunswick border.

Zone 2: From 12:01 a.m. on March 27, 2006 to 12:01 a.m. on May 27, 2006

This zone includes the Îles-de-la-Madeleine and the Québec territory between the “demarcation line of zones 1 and 2” described above and the next line, known as the “demarcation line of zones 2 and 3”:

From the intersection point of parallel of latitude 48° 00' north and the Ontario border; from there, southeastward, in a straight line to the intersection of Route 101 and the southern boundary of Ville de Rouyn-Noranda; from there, eastward, in a straight line to the Rapide-Sept hydroelectric dam; from there, eastward, in a straight line to the intersection of Highway 117 with the northern boundary of the La Vérendrye wildlife reserve; from there, eastward, in a straight line to the intersection of Route 167 with the southern boundary of the Ashuapmushuan wildlife reserve; from there, in a general northwesterly direction, along the boundary of the aforesaid wildlife reserve counterclockwise to its intersection with the northwestern boundary of the municipality of Saint-Thomas-Didyme; from there, northeastward, following the northwestern, southwestern, northern and northeastern boundaries of the municipality of Saint-Thomas-Didyme, and then the generally northwestern boundaries of the municipalities of Saint-Edmond-les-Plaines, Girardville and Notre-Dame-de-Lorette to its intersection with the northeastern boundary of the municipality of Notre-Dame-de-Lorette; from there, eastward, in a straight line to the Manic Three hydroelectric dam; from there, northeastward, in a straight line to a point located on parallel of latitude 51° 00' north, 60 metres east from the shore of Lac Caron (intersection of the northern and western boundaries of the Port-Cartier-Sept-Îles wildlife reserve); from there, eastward, along parallel of latitude 51° 00' north, to a point located 60 metres east of the Sainte-Marguerite River (intersection of the northern and eastern boundaries of the aforesaid reserve); from there, eastward, in a straight line to the intersection of parallel of latitude 52° 00' north and the eastern boundary of the Province of Québec, north of the municipality of Blanc Sablon.

Zone 3: From 12:01 a.m. on March 27, 2006 to 12:01 a.m. on May 27, 2006

This zone includes the Québec territory located north of the “demarcation line of zones 2 and 3” described above.