



WINTER CROSSINGS



This brochure outlines the specific standards and criteria under which Transport Canada considers winter crossings as a “minor work” and does not require an application under the *Navigable Waters Protection Act* (NWPA).

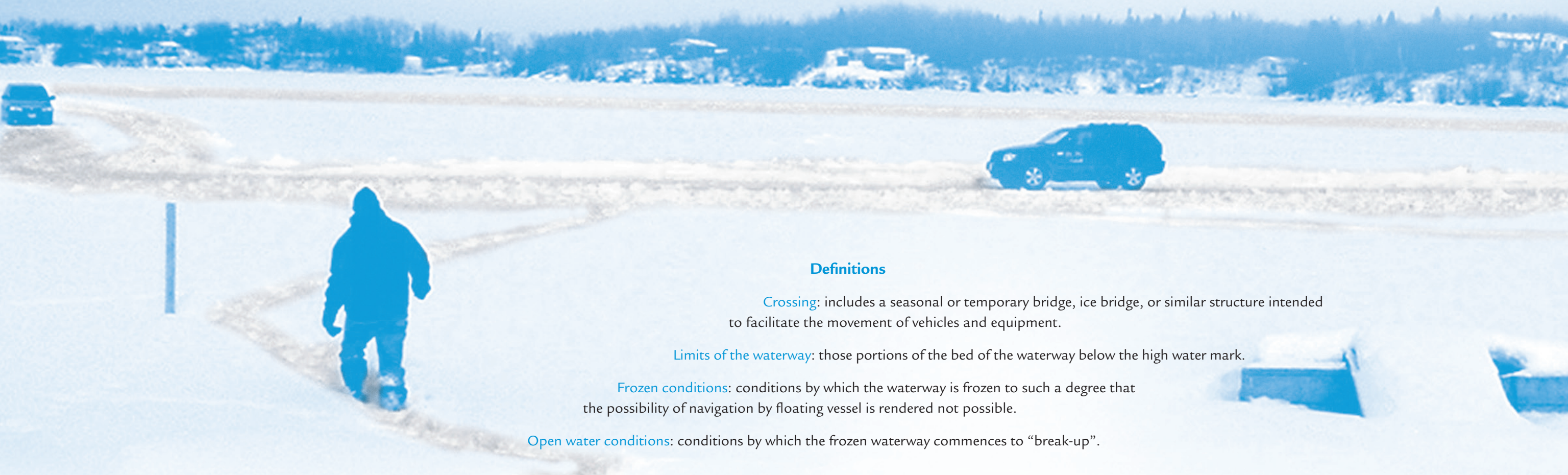
The NWPA is a federal law designed to protect the public right of navigation. It ensures that works constructed in navigable waterways are reviewed and regulated to minimize the overall impact on navigation.

The Act includes provisions for the removal of unauthorized works or obstructions that render navigation difficult enough to be considered dangerous.

A Minor Work

Historically, many projects pose no threat to the ongoing safety of navigation if positioned and constructed in accordance with specific known standards and criteria. Such projects are considered by Transport Canada as a minor work and, as such, no application under the NWPA is required.

Failure to construct the work in accordance with the standards and criteria identified in this document may result in enforcement action.



Definitions

Crossing: includes a seasonal or temporary bridge, ice bridge, or similar structure intended to facilitate the movement of vehicles and equipment.

Limits of the waterway: those portions of the bed of the waterway below the high water mark.

Frozen conditions: conditions by which the waterway is frozen to such a degree that the possibility of navigation by floating vessel is rendered not possible.

Open water conditions: conditions by which the frozen waterway commences to “break-up”.

When is a winter crossing considered a minor work?

A winter crossing project meeting the following criteria is considered a minor work under this policy and **does not require** an application under the NWPA and the project may proceed:

1. The temporary crossing shall only be constructed or placed under frozen conditions;
2. All portions of the temporary crossing (including, but not limited to, piers, abutments, mats, log fills and debris) must be completely removed from the limits of the waterway prior to open-water conditions; and
3. The bed of the waterway shall be restored to its original elevation.

NOTE

Strict adherence to this policy is mandatory. In addition, other situations may arise that prevent the application of this policy to a specific winter crossing project.

You should note that other laws and regulations may be applicable to your winter crossing project.

If you require further information or clarification, please contact the Navigable Waters Protection Program Office in your area or consult Transport Canada's website at: <http://www.tc.gc.ca/marinesafety/oep/nwpp/menu.htm>.

