

The provisions governing a combination of road vehicles equipped with a jeep dolly requiring a Class 5 special permit

Under the *Regulation respecting special permits*, carriers are required, until December 31, 1997, to obtain a Class 5 special permit in order to use a combination of road vehicles consisting of a three axle tractor, a jeep dolly with one or two axles and a semi-trailer with three or four axles.

This regulatory provision came into force in 1994 in order to make it possible, on an experimental basis, for carriers to use, during normal periods, these combinations of road vehicles with a total loaded mass between 65 000 kg and 79 000 kg, according to the characteristics of the vehicles used, without being required to hold a specific special permit (Class 6) requiring expertise for each route. This trial period has enabled the ministère des Transports to evaluate the static and dynamic behaviour of these combinations of road vehicles and to seek other solutions for maintaining an equivalent load capacity, namely, the use of a 12-wheeled tractor.

The positive experience of the past few years, the acceptable dynamic behaviour of these combinations of road vehicles and the various evaluations that have been carried out in this regard have led the ministère des Transports to recommend that these vehicle configurations remain in Class 5. The terms of use will remain the same as those that are currently provided for in the Regulation.

Amendments to the *Regulation respecting special permits* will be proposed in order to eliminate the December 31, 1997 deadline. Given that these amendments cannot come into force before the end of the year, the ministère des Transports and the Société de l'assurance automobile du Québec agree to maintain the current rules governing the issue of special permits and their enforcement by highway transportation controllers after December 31, 1997 until the Regulation is amended.

For further information on the *Regulation respecting special permits* or any other information on vehicle load and size limits call *Info camionnage* at the numbers given below.