



November 1, 2018

**LONG COMBINATION VEHICLES
WINTER OPERATION
2018–2019 DEMONSTRATION PROJECT**

The *Special Road Train Operating Permits Regulation* (the Regulation) allows overlength road trains (long combination vehicles) to operate on and in proximity to dual carriageway highways. Under the Regulation, these vehicles can operate between March 1 and November 30.

This year, the ministère des Transports (the Ministère) is extending the demonstration project to allow these long combination vehicles (LCVs) to operate in winter (December to February). This project allows LCVs to operate on roads covered under the Regulation in certain additional conditions, the objective of which is to ensure road user safety.

Eligibility requirements

To be eligible for the project, companies must:

- have held at least one special LCV operating permit in Québec between March 1, 2017, and November 30, 2018;
- have a “satisfactory” safety rating with the mention “unaudited” or not.¹

¹ The base jurisdiction of a company that operates vehicles registered in a province other than Québec assigns them the safety rating set out in standard 14 of the National Safety Code. In this case, Québec recognizes a safety rating of “satisfactory,” “satisfactory unaudited,” or their equivalents, depending on what is applicable with the base jurisdiction and meets this criterion.

Provisions set out in the Regulation

The operating conditions set out in the Regulation apply to the demonstration project. Under these conditions, an LCV cannot operate:

- on Sundays or statutory holidays;
- during hours when operation is prohibited in the Montréal and Québec City areas;
- when visibility is less than 500 m;
- when the surface is not clear of snow or de-iced.

Additional conditions

Additional conditions are set out in the project. Their purposes include ensuring that LCVs operate only when weather and road conditions are favourable and keeping records of the project. These requirements apply to all participating LCV operators and consist of:

- checking road conditions and weather forecasts before departure, and not operating if they are unfavourable;
- identifying safe stop areas near the highways used, where LCVs can stop when road or weather conditions become unfavourable;
- operating only on highway sections where the company has identified safe stop areas;
- not operating on December 25 and 26 and on January 1;
- limiting load length so that it does not exceed the length of the combination vehicles;
- complying with notices issued by the Ministère regarding operating restrictions, especially those sent by email or broadcasted on Québec 511.
- keeping an up-to-date record containing information about each trip and sending it to the Ministère on a monthly basis. This requirement applies to companies participating in the demonstration project for the first year;
- providing the Ministère, upon request:
 - with information regarding a trip;
 - with data recorded by the device and used to keep track of driver's behavior. This data must be saved for at least 90 days. This requirement applies to companies participating in the demonstration project for the first year;
- designating a person of authority within the company to be in charge of LCV operation.
- sign a letter of commitment to comply with all conditions of the demonstration project.

Road conditions

During the winter, special attention must be given to road and weather conditions to ensure that prescribed requirements are met. In this context, it is appropriate to consult various data sources on road conditions and weather forecasts to support the decision of whether or not to operate an LCV. Participating companies are required to carefully evaluate the risk of changing weather conditions that may affect visibility and road conditions (snow accumulation, ice formation, etc.).

Safe stop area

Even after the necessary precautions are taken, weather conditions can sometimes deteriorate unexpectedly after an LCV departure. If such a situation occurs—which should be an exceptional case—all participating companies shall identify safe stop areas in proximity to the highways that the LCVs use. The operator must then stop at the nearest safe stop area.

Participating companies shall ensure that LCVs have access to the proposed safe stop areas. The distance between safe stop areas must not exceed 50 km save for some exceptions.

Caution

After review, the Ministère may revoke project permits issued to a company in the following situations:

- after a first accident or violation;
- after a second incident (well-founded complaint, non-compliance with conditions, etc.);
- resent list of safe stop areas is incomplete or erroneous;
- identifying a safe stop area in the list provided proves to be inaccessible;
- failure to submit a record of trips within the prescribed periods, or if the submitted record is incomplete, inaccurate or contains misinformation.

Special operating permit

A special permit is required for LCVs to operate in the months of December, January or February. Special operating permits are issued, under section 633 of the Highway Safety Code, to companies that meet the above-mentioned requirements. Permits specimen may be consulted on the [Section 633 of the Highway Safety Code](#) page of the Ministère website. Permits may be applied for by means of the “[Application form for special permits](#)”. The permit can be sent by email or by mail, and related fees can be paid by credit card or by cheque.

The maximum number of permits that can be issued for each company matches to the number of permits it held between March 1 and November 30, 2018. For companies that want to participate in the project but that did not hold a permit during this period, the same period of the previous year will be considered.

For more information, please consult the [Road train longer than 25 meters](#) page or contact us.

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