

# QUICK REFERENCE SHEET

## ON ROAD SIGNS

for heavy vehicles



This publication was prepared by the Direction du transport routier des marchandises and edited by the Direction des communications of the ministère des Transports du Québec.

This publication is also available in French under the title *Aide-mémoire sur la signalisation routière des véhicules lourds*.

For more information:

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## Warning

*The purpose of this quick reference sheet is to provide information on Québec road signs related to heavy truck traffic. This easy-to-read information sheet is not legally binding. For more complete information on road signs, it is recommended that you consult the Regulation respecting road signs, which is derived from the Highway Safety Code, available on the website of Les Publications du Québec.*

## Introduction

The mission of the ministère des Transports du Québec is to ensure the sustainable mobility of people and goods throughout its territory through effective and safe transportation systems that contribute to Québec's development. The Ministère takes all appropriate measures to foster the best balance between safety needs and the free flow of goods and people. The *Regulation respecting road signs* is one of the means used to achieve this objective.

This quick reference sheet is intended to help understand road signs and, consequently, help drivers of heavy vehicles plan their movements. It is also meant as a tool to enforcement personnel, police officers and municipalities, to reinforce the protection of road users, but also of the road network.

## Road Signs Intended for Heavy Vehicle Drivers

The *Highway Safety Code* gives the Minister of Transport and municipalities the authority to prohibit or limit heavy vehicle traffic on public roads under their management. The *Regulation respecting road signs* establishes the rules relating to signs on Québec roads. It helps enforce the Minister's authority and provides municipalities with a legal framework to ensure that signs are properly installed.

Some of the road signs are more specifically intended for heavy vehicles. Road signs intended for heavy vehicles very often bear the truck outline.

## Road Signs

As a rule, road signs intended for drivers of heavy vehicles bear the truck outline.

A truck is a road vehicle, other than an emergency vehicle, with a gross vehicle weight rating (GVWR<sup>1</sup>) of 4 500 kg or more, designed and equipped mainly for the transportation of goods or of the machinery with which it is permanently equipped and its accessories. Combinations of road vehicles in which at least one vehicle has a GVWR of 4 500 kg or more are also considered trucks.

Furthermore, unless otherwise indicated in the Regulation, vehicles designed for the transportation of people (regardless of the GVWR) are not considered trucks. Examples: Buses, recreational vehicles.



The truck outline on road signs represents trucks, tow trucks and tool vehicles, unless exception specified in the regulation.



All truck drivers **must** follow the route indicated by the sign.



All truck drivers **must** drive in the designated lane.

Indicates to truck drivers that they must drive in the lane indicated by the arrow.

1. The GVWR is the net weight of a vehicle plus the maximum load the vehicle can carry, according to the manufacturer's specifications.



Truck drivers are **prohibited** from driving in the lane indicated by the arrow.



Truck drivers are **prohibited** from driving on the public road where these signs are installed.

Exemptions: Tow trucks, farm motor vehicles, farm machinery, farm tractors and oversized vehicles travelling under a special permit which expressly authorizes access to a public road.



Truck drivers in transit **must** continue driving in the direction indicated by the arrow.

Exemptions: Tow trucks, farm motor vehicles, farm machinery, farm tractors and oversized vehicles travelling under a special permit which expressly authorizes access to a public road.



Truck drivers are **prohibited** from driving on the public road where these signs are installed, except for local delivery purposes.

Exemptions: Tow trucks, farm motor vehicles, farm machinery, farm tractors and oversized vehicles travelling under a special permit which expressly authorizes access to a public road.



Sign **reminding** truck drivers that they are travelling on a road that is prohibited to trucks.

Truckers who have completed a local delivery can continue travelling on that road until they encounter a new EXCEPTÉ LIVRAISON LOCALE (except local delivery) sign.

Truck drivers who are not making a local delivery must use another road.



Sign **indicating** the maximum total loaded mass of trucks authorized on a given road.

When the sign indicates EXCEPTÉ LIVRAISON LOCALE (except local delivery), the mass restriction does not apply to truck drivers who must make a local delivery on the road where this sign is installed. However, truck drivers must comply with the *Vehicle Load and Size Limits Regulation*.



Exemptions: Tow trucks, farm motor vehicles, farm machinery, farm tractors and oversized vehicles travelling under a special permit which expressly authorizes access to a public road.



Sign **indicating** the maximum length of trucks authorized on a given road.

When the sign indicates EXCEPTÉ LIVRAISON LOCALE (except local delivery), the length restriction does not apply to truck drivers who must make a local delivery on the road where this sign is installed.



Exemptions: Tow trucks, farm motor vehicles, farm machinery, farm tractors and oversized vehicles travelling under a special permit which expressly authorizes access to a public road.



Sign **indicating** the maximum width of trucks authorized on a given road.

Exemptions: Tow trucks, farm motor vehicles, farm machinery, farm tractors and oversized vehicles travelling under a special permit which expressly authorizes access to a public road.



Sign **indicating** the maximum number of axles of trucks authorized on a given road.

When the sign indicates EXCEPTÉ LIVRAISON LOCALE (except local delivery), the restriction in the number of axles does not apply to truck drivers who must make a local delivery on the road where this sign is installed.



Exemptions: Tow trucks, farm motor vehicles, farm machinery, farm tractors and oversized vehicles travelling under a special permit which expressly authorizes access to a public road.



Sign **indicating** to truck drivers and drivers of other road vehicles whose weight exceeds the legal load limits for this type of vehicle, that they are prohibited from driving on certain bridges and overpasses.

Exemption: Road vehicles expressly authorized to do so by a special permit issued under sections 463 or 633 of the *Highway Safety Code*.



Weight restrictions for various types of trucks authorized to cross a bridge according to the number of units. This sign is installed near bridges and overpasses. It also applies to bus drivers.

Exemption: Outsized vehicles travelling under a special permit which expressly authorizes access to a public road.



Weight restrictions for road vehicles authorized to cross a bridge. This sign is installed near bridges and overpasses. It applies to all drivers of road vehicles.

Exemption: Outsized vehicles travelling under a special permit which expressly authorizes access to a public road.



Presence of a brake check area. All drivers whose vehicles have a total loaded mass (TLM) of at least 3 000 kg must stop their vehicle in the indicated area and check the condition of the vehicle brakes.



Presence of a truck weight station. When beacons are flashing, truck drivers must drive their vehicle to the station to have them checked as required under the *Highway Safety Code*.

Exemptions:

- Road vehicle with a net weight of 4 000 kg or less registered as a passenger vehicle;
- Road vehicle used for recreational purposes;
- Combination of road vehicles where each vehicle has a GVWR lower than 4 500 kg.



Drivers of road vehicles transporting dangerous substances are **prohibited** from driving in a lane or in a tunnel depending on the volume and type of dangerous substances they are transporting. For more details on this prohibition, consult the *Transportation of Dangerous Substances Regulation*.



Advance signs on highways. These signs warn truck drivers of prohibited access at the approach to exit ramps.



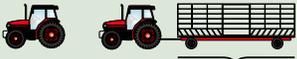
Advance signs warning truck drivers that they are approaching a road that is prohibited to trucks, except for local delivery.



Sign indicating the distance to the beginning of a road section that is prohibited to trucks except for local delivery purposes.

## Am I Concerned?

Note: The table does not include vehicles for which a special permit is required.

		<p>Farm motor vehicle<sup>2</sup>, farm machinery, farm tractor</p>  <p>- than 4 500 kg</p>
	Yes	<p><b>Yes</b></p> <p>the vehicle has a GVWR of 4 500 kg or more. If the vehicle is considered as a tool vehicle.</p>
	Yes	<p><b>Yes</b></p> <p>If the vehicle has a GVWR of 4 500 kg or more. If the vehicle is considered as a tool vehicle.</p>
	Yes	<p><b>Yes</b></p> <p>If the vehicle has a GVWR of 4 500 kg or more. If the vehicle is considered as a tool vehicle.</p>
	No	No
	No	No
	Yes	<p><b>Yes</b></p> <p>If the vehicle has a GVWR of 4 500 kg or more. If the vehicle is considered as a tool vehicle.</p>
	Yes	<p><b>Yes</b></p> <p>If the vehicle has a GVWR of 4 500 kg or more. If the vehicle is considered as a tool vehicle.</p>
	Yes	Yes
	Yes	Yes
	<p><b>Yes</b></p> <p>If the vehicle has a TLM of 3 000 kg and more.</p>	<p><b>Yes</b></p> <p>If the vehicle or combination of vehicles has a TLM of 3 000 kg and more.</p>

2. A truck, pickup truck or small van type motor vehicle owned by a farmer and used mainly for the transportation of farm produce or material required in its production.

# Am I Concerned?

Note: The table does not include vehicles for which a special permit is required.

	   <span style="margin-left: 100px;">4 500 kg or +</span> <span style="margin-left: 150px;">4 500 kg or +</span>
	Yes
	Yes
	Yes
	Yes
	Yes
	Yes
	Yes
	Yes
	Yes
	<p>Yes</p> <p>If the vehicle or combination of vehicles has a TLM of 3 000 kg and more.</p>

# Am I Concerned?

Note: The table does not include vehicles for which a special permit is required.

	      	
	<p>- than 4 500 kg   - than 4 500 kg   - than 4 500 kg   4 500 kg or +   4 500 kg or +   4 500 kg or +   - than 4 500 kg</p>	
		No
		No
		No
		No
		No
		No
		No
		Yes
		Yes
		Yes
	<p><b>If the vehicle or combination of vehicles has a TLM of 3 000 kg and more.</b></p>	

## Am I Concerned?

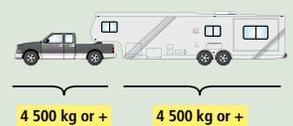
Note: The table does not include vehicles for which a special permit is required.

	 4 500 kg or +    4 500 kg or +    4 500 kg or +	 4 500 kg or +    4 500 kg or +    4 500 kg or +    4 500 kg or +
	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Yes</b>
	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Yes</b>
	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Yes</b>
	<b>Yes</b> Except if the vehicle is registered as a farm motor vehicle.	<b>Yes</b>
	<b>Yes</b> Except if the vehicle is registered as a farm motor vehicle.	<b>Yes</b>
	<b>Yes</b> Except if the vehicle has a net weight of 4 000 kg or less and is registered as a passenger vehicle. Except if the vehicle is used for recreational purposes.	<b>Yes</b> Except if the combination of vehicles is used for recreational purposes <sup>3</sup> .
	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Yes</b>
	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Yes</b>
	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Yes</b>
	<b>Yes</b> If the vehicle has a TLM of 3 000 kg and more.	<b>Yes</b> If the combination of vehicles has a TLM of 3 000 kg and more.

3. It is important to check whether the trailer is used for recreational or commercial purposes.

## Am I Concerned?

Note: The table does not include vehicles for which a special permit is required.

	<p>Plate L<sup>4</sup></p>  <p>4 500 kg or +</p>	 <p>4 500 kg or +      4 500 kg or +</p>
	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Yes</b>
	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Yes</b>
	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Yes</b>
	<b>Yes</b> Except if the vehicle is registered as a farm motor vehicle.	<b>Yes</b> Except if the towing vehicle is a farm motor vehicle.
	<b>Yes</b> Except if the vehicle is registered as a farm motor vehicle.	<b>Yes</b> Except if the towing vehicle is a farm motor vehicle.
	<b>Yes</b> Except if the vehicle is used for recreational purposes.	No Except if the travel trailer is used for purposes other than recreation.
	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Yes</b>
	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Yes</b>
	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Yes</b>
	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Yes</b> If the combination of vehicles has a TLM of 3 000 kg and more.

4. Licence plate numbers starting with L are intended for trucks, combinations of road vehicles and farm motor vehicles with a net weight over 3 000 kg (SAAQ website).

# Am I Concerned?

Note: The table does not include vehicles for which a special permit is required.

	 - than 4 500 kg      4 500 kg or +	Used for recreational purposes  - than 4 500 kg      4 500 kg or +
	No	<b>Yes</b>
	No	<b>Yes</b>
	No	<b>Yes</b>
	No	<b>Yes</b>
	No	<b>Yes</b>
	No Except if the travel trailer is used for purposes other than recreation.	No
	No	<b>Yes</b>
	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Yes</b>
	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Yes</b>
	<b>Yes</b> If the combination of vehicles has a TLM of 3 000 kg and more.	<b>Yes</b> If the combination of vehicles has a TLM of 3 000 kg and more.

# Am I Concerned?

Note: The table does not include vehicles for which a special permit is required.

		Emergency vehicles <sup>5</sup> 
	No	No
	No	No
	No	No
	No	No
	No	No
	No	No
	Yes	No
	Yes	Yes Except when used in an emergency situation.
	Yes	Yes Except when used in an emergency situation.
	Yes If the vehicle or combination of vehicles has a TLM of 3 000 kg and more.	Yes If the vehicle has a TLM of 3 000 kg and more, Except when used in an emergency situation.

5. As defined under section 4 of the *Highway Safety Code*.

# QUESTIONS CONCERNING TRUCKING



Information available on the website of the ministère des Transports du Québec at [www.transports.gouv.qc.ca](http://www.transports.gouv.qc.ca)

- An Act respecting owners, operators and drivers of heavy vehicles
- Bulk trucking
- Cargo securement
- Dangerous substances
- International trucking
- Load and size limits
- Road signs for heavy vehicles
- Shipping documents/bill of lading
- Special permits
- Trucking network



Information available on the Québec 511 website at [quebec511.gouv.qc.ca](http://quebec511.gouv.qc.ca)

- Hindrances related to load and size
- Load limits on bridges and overpasses
- New roadwork sites
- Vertical bridge clearance

