

Frequently asked questions

Ministerial Order concerning the suspension of axle load and gross vehicle weight limits applicable during thaw periods for certain road vehicles or combinations of road vehicles

To whom does the Ministerial Order apply?

The Ministerial Order applies to any carrier transporting goods by road and whose vehicle or combination of vehicles is covered by the Vehicle Load and Size Limits Regulation (CQLR, Chapter C-24.2, r. 31). The Regulation sets the maximum axle load and the maximum total loaded mass applicable to road vehicles or combinations of road vehicles during a period of thaw or rain.

How long will the Ministerial Order be in force?

It will be in force until June 19, 2020.

What conditions must a vehicle or combination of vehicles meet?

1. It must carry only food products, sanitary and medical supplies, pharmaceutical products and goods necessary to produce food products.
2. It must comply with the maximum axle load and the maximum total loaded mass normally applicable outside thaw periods, as provided for in sections III and IV of the Vehicle Load and Size Limits Regulation (CQLR, Chapter C-24.2, r. 31).

What are the types of load or goods covered by the Ministerial Order?

The Ministerial Order applies only to food products, sanitary and medical supplies, pharmaceutical products and goods necessary to produce food products.

Does this include animal feed?

Yes, animal feed for farm and domestic animals is included.

What happens if an intercepted vehicle or combination of vehicles covered by the Ministerial Order has a load that does not comply with the load limit normally applicable outside thaw periods?

A statement of offence may be issued. The fine would then be determined based on the load limit for the thaw period.

How is it possible to know whether the goods to be carried are necessary to produce food products?

The destination indicated on the shipping document or bill of lading specifies whether the transported goods are related to the food production chain.

Is the Ministerial Order valid outside Québec?

No. Load limits in jurisdictions outside Québec are still applicable. The carrier has to check the requirements of each jurisdiction and comply with them.