



**COURTESY TRANSLATION
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2010 SPRING THAW

BEGINNING OF THE HEAVY VEHICLE LOAD RESTRICTION PERIOD

Québec City, March 4, 2010 – The Ministère des Transports du Québec today informed users of heavy vehicles, as well as shippers, that the period during which the authorized load limits are reduced due to the weaker load bearing capacity on the road network will begin on Monday, March 8 in Zones 1 and 2 and March 15 in Zone 3.

As in past years, the starting and ending dates of this period are adjusted to reflect the climate context of each of the three zones established. These dates cover not only the thaw as such but the period during which the roadway recovers its bearing capacity.

Thus, in 2010, the thaw dates for each zone are as follows:

Zones*	Start: Monday 0:01	End: Friday 23:59
1	March 8	May 7
2	March 8	May 7
3	March 15	May 14

It is important to note that this load restriction period may be moved ahead, suspended or delayed depending on changes in weather conditions.

During this period of additional load restrictions, Contrôle routier Québec will intensify its heavy truck weighing activities, both at the inspection stations and on the road network. These interventions will cover the entire heavy vehicle fleet.

The purpose of the load limits imposed during spring thaw is to protect road infrastructure assets for the benefit of all road users. Preservation of a safe network is also one of the core concerns of the Ministère des Transports du Québec.

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