



Highway Maintenance Manual
Chapter 06 Winter Maintenance
Section 05 Road Classifications
Subject 10 Class II Roads

Bureau of Highway Maintenance
January 2018

1.0 Authority

The department may impose special seasonal weight restrictions on any state trunk highway that, because of weakness of the roadbed due to deteriorating or climatic conditions or other special or temporary conditions, would likely be seriously damaged or destroyed in the absence of such special limitations. This is done in accordance with Wis. Stats. s. [349.16](#).

Class II road restrictions usually apply only during those times when the roadbed is thawing. During the Class II restriction, most divisible load multiple trip permits exceeding legal axle weights or 80,000 pounds are suspended in accordance with Wis. Stats. s. [348.17](#).

The department may exempt vehicles carrying certain commodities. These vehicles may be exempted if such exemption is reasonable and necessary to promote the public health, safety and welfare according to Wis. Stats. s. [349.16\(3\)](#).

Exemptions or limitations may also be granted for only emergency or exceptional situations as determined by region maintenance personnel.

2.0 Raw Forest (RS) and Potato Seed (PS) Permits

Vehicles transporting raw forest products under the RS permit or Potato Seeds under the PS permit are exempt from Class II Road restrictions. However, permit holders may not exceed posted limits on any bridges or culverts on State or US routes or other roadway weight restrictions that are not seasonal posted roads.

Additional RS and PS permit information and restrictions can be found on the [Multiple trip permits](#) web page.

3.0 Procedure

1. Prior to the start of the seasonal road postings, the Winter Maintenance Engineer in the Bureau of Highway Maintenance (BHM) shall contact the regional maintenance supervisors and request a listing of the highway sections within their respective regions that have been designated as Class II highways. The list and map shall include the state highway number and the limits of the affected highway section.
2. When temperatures begin to rise, the Meteorologist in the Bureau of Highway Maintenance will use weather forecasts and the MnDOT frost model to estimate when Class II road restrictions need to be put in place.
3. As the estimated date approaches, the Meteorologist will review Roadway Weather Information Systems data and request frost tube readings from regional maintenance supervisors. Frost tube should be checked on Mondays and Thursday and reported to BHM until Class II restrictions are declared in each respective zone.
4. Class II restrictions will be declared on a zone by zone basis when thaw depth reaches 6 inches below the pavement surface in the zone.
5. When conditions warrant declaring a zone or zones as thawing, the Bureau of Highway Maintenance Winter Maintenance Engineer shall publish a declaration of Class II restrictions. Each declaration shall be given a 24-hour notice prior to becoming effective.
6. Regional maintenance supervisors shall monitor roadways weekly for weeping and pumping and shall advise the Bureau of Highway Maintenance Winter Maintenance Engineer when Class II restrictions shall end for each zone. When conditions warrant the ending of Class II restrictions, the Bureau of Highway Maintenance Winter Maintenance Engineer shall publish a declaration ending Seasonal posted roads. Each declaration shall be given a 24-hour notice.

7. All declarations of Class II restrictions shall be issued as press releases by the Department's Office of Public Affairs and available via a recorded message at (608) 266-8417. Additionally, the Bureau of Highway Maintenance will compile a list and map of all highway sections with Class II weight restrictions and post notice on the Department's Internet [web site](#).
8. Additional information on this procedure can be found in the [Decision Process](#) document.

4.0 Seasonal Posted Roads

Some roads are posted for less than the legal weight limit. These limitations may apply periodically throughout the year or only during the seasonal thawing period. Refer to [HMM 06-05-15](#), Seasonal Posted Roads.

5.0 Local Roads

Annual (multiple trip) permits are not valid on local roads during the springtime thaw period unless the carrier obtains a single trip permit from the local road maintenance authority. Vehicles with RS and PS permits may travel on all public local roads unless posted by the local maintaining authority.