

MEMO / NOTE DE SERVICE



To / Destinataire	National Capital Heavy Construction Association (NCHCA), Ottawa Construction Association (OCA), Greater Ottawa Truckers Association (GOTA), Canadian Trucking Industry, Quebec Trucking Association, Greater Ottawa Home Builders Association, Building Owners and Managers Association of Ottawa.	File/N° de fichier:
From / Expéditeur	Moustafa Awadalla, M.A.Sc., P. Eng. Infrastructure Assessment Engineer - Pavements City of Ottawa	
Subject / Objet	2021 Seasonal Load Restrictions	Date: February 15, 2021

The City of Ottawa imposes seasonal load restrictions (SLR) each year to protect our pavement network including truck routes, non-truck routes, and seasonally restricted roads from damage during the spring thaw. Structural capacity of our pavement is greatly reduced around this time of the year due trapped moisture. The restricted period is generally in effect between early March and mid May, although the specific timing is determined by the progression of the thaw.

During Seasonal Load Restrictions vehicles with a gross vehicle weight more than five (5) tonnes or eleven-thousand (11,000) lbs. per axel are prohibited on roads where restriction signage is posted and, on all roads, identified as restricted on the [Truck Route Maps](#) or on [geoOttawa](#). For more information, please visit the [SLR webpage](#) or call 3-1-1.

As the City of Ottawa is primarily concerned with the issues of public safety and the protection of its infrastructure, the City is under no obligation to provide exemptions from the seasonal load restrictions at any time, as there is a high risk of damage to the pavement structure from such operations.

Notwithstanding, exemptions to the load restrictions are granted in exceptional cases where the movement of the load could not reasonably have been planned around the seasonal load restricted period, the risk of damage is low, the movement of a load cannot be reduced or reasonably rescheduled until after the restricted period, as well as various other considerations. Financial hardship (or benefit) for the owner, agent, project manager, contractor or trucking operator is NOT considered as justifications for an exemption.

In the event an SLR exemption is deemed to be required, the permit holder will be required to compensate the City of Ottawa for an estimated cost required to repair damage to the road infrastructure (including engineering and/or legal fees) as a result of over-dimensional/weight vehicle movements made by the permit holder (as outlined in Section 39 of By-Law 2003-497). The permit holder will need to enter into an agreement with the City to this effect.

Seasonal load restriction exemptions are handled through the Over-dimensional/weight Vehicle permit process as governed by City of Ottawa [By-Law No. 2003-497](#). Depending upon the type of operation, a Single Trip permit or Project permit for the entire load restricted period may be issued.

In addition to a completed Over-dimensional vehicle permit application for each vehicle to be used during the load-restricted period, the following information must be provided:

1. The proposed route,
2. Description of the materials/goods to be moved,
3. The total quantity of materials/goods to be moved,
4. The estimated number of trips per vehicle required to move the materials/goods,
5. The proposed start and end dates for the movements,
6. Justification for potential SLR exemption, and
7. Any specific information that may assist the City with the review of the exemption application.

Over-dimensional Vehicle permit applications may be obtained through the Right Of Way (ROW) Permit Office electronically at ROW_Permit_Office@Ottawa.ca (Tel: 613-580-2424, Ext. 16000).

An SLR exemption request requires a minimum of ten (10) business days to review, after which a decision will be made, and written approval or denial, at the sole discretion of the City, will be provided to the applicant.