

2026 Thaw Period – Predicted Dates

(Dates last revised February 24th, 2026)

The Ministère reminds users of heavy vehicles and shippers that the authorized load limits are reduced during the thaw period on all public roads. This is done every year to account for the road network’s lower bearing capacity during this period.

For the thaw period of **2026**, the predicted dates of the [load restriction period](#) for each of the [thaw zones](#) are indicated below.

- **Zone 1** - From Monday, March 16th (00:01) to Friday, May 15th (23:59)
- **Zone 2** - From Monday, March 23rd (00:01) to Friday, May 22nd (23:59)
- **Zone 3** - From Monday, March 30th (00:01) to Friday, May 29th (23:59)

Depending on changes in weather conditions, the start and end of the load restriction period can be moved ahead or postponed.

Thaw - Zones



Detailed map available <https://www.transports.gouv.qc.ca/fr/entreprises-partenaires/ent-camionnage/degel/Documents/degel.pdf>

Zone 1 includes the Québec territory located south of the following demarcation line, hereinafter referred to as the “demarcation line between zones 1 and 2”.

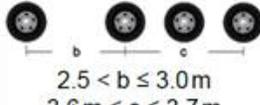
From the intersection point of the centre line of the Ottawa River (Québec-Ontario border).

Zone 2 includes Îles-de-la-Madeleine and the Québec territory contained between the “demarcation line between zones 1 and 2” heretofore described and the following line, hereinafter referred to as the “demarcation line between zones 2 and 3”.

Zone 3 includes the Québec territory located north of the “demarcation line between zones 2 and 3” heretofore described.

Equipment	Regular Allowed Weight	Thawing Period Allowed Weight
2 Axle Ref. Trailer	23 100 kg	18 100 kg (39 902 lbs.)
3 Axle Ref. Trailer	29 500 kg	23 000 kg (50 705 lbs.)

TABLE 1 : Axle Load Limit

Class of axles			Period		Reduction
			Normal	Thaw	
B.10	Single axle		10000 kg	8000 kg	20%
B.21	Tandem	 $d \geq 1.2\text{ m}$	18000 kg	15500 kg	14%
B.33	Tridem or tridem equivalent	 $3.6\text{ m} \leq d \leq 3.7\text{ m}$	26000 kg ¹	22000 kg ¹	15%
B.45	A self-steering axle in front of a tridem ²	 $2.5 < b \leq 3.0\text{ m}$ $3.6\text{ m} \leq c \leq 3.7\text{ m}$	34000 kg	29500 kg	13%

¹ The limit is reduced by 1 000 kg in the case of a tridem equivalent.

² This class of axles must be equipped with a suspension system designed to distribute the mass evenly among all axles, within about 1 000 kg, and without possible adjustment.

TABLE 2 : Total Loaded Mass Limits

Class of vehicles or combinations of vehicles	Period		Reduction
	Normal	Thaw	
	25 250 kg	22 750 kg	10%
	41 500 kg	36 500 kg	12%
	49 500 kg	43 000 kg	13%
	57 500 kg	50 500 kg	12%
	62 500 kg	57 500 kg	8%