Seasonal weight restrictions on Saskatchewan highways

Issue:

Weight restrictions are in place on Saskatchewan highways at various times of the year.

Key Facts:

- The Saskatchewan Ministry of Highways and Infrastructure has established allowable weights for all highways within the province. Maximum gross vehicle weight is dependent on highway classification, maximum registered gross vehicle weight for vehicles, tire size and axle spacing.
- In order to maximize the economic movement of goods and minimize the damage to road structures, the Ministry of Highways and Infrastructure assigns special weights to some of our highways.
- ***Effective the week of March 7, 2016, winter weights have been removed from all provincial highways. Due to unseasonably warm weather, spring road restrictions will follow shortly after. Check the Highway Hotline for complete information on seasonal weight restrictions.***

- Information on spring road restrictions is available by contacting the Highway Hotline at:
  - saskatchewan.ca;
  - 1-888-335-7623; or
  - *ROAD (SaskTel cellular network).

Spring

- Spring road restrictions are dependent on weather. Typically restrictions start in the first week of March, generally in the southwest of the province, and the remainder follow over a two or three week period.
- When restrictions are implemented, they may be in place for up to six weeks. If a prolonged cold spell occurs during the restriction season, they may be removed until conditions warrant their implementation again.

- On affected highways, the maximum load on steering axles is 10 kg per millimetre (560 lb. per inch) width of tire (manufacturer's stamped dimensions) to a maximum of 3,000 kg (6 612 lb.) on each wheel to a maximum of 5,500 kg (12 120 lb.) on the steering axle; except for straight trucks on primary highways which are allowed up to a maximum of 7,250 kg on the steering axle with the appropriate tire size.
- Maximum loads on all other wheels will be limited to 6.25 kg/mm (350 lb. per inch) width of tire to a maximum loading of 1,650 kg per wheel (3,636 lb.).

Winter

- Winter weight restrictions revert the allowable axle group and gross vehicle weights to the regular summer limits on designated public highways for the time specified in the order.
- They are based on maximum gross weights on various axle configurations as defined in Chapter H-3.01 REG 2, Section 15(11) of *The Highways and Transportation Act, 1999.*
- Winter weights are in effect from November 16 until March 14 of the following year. The periods from November 16 to November 30 and the last day in February until March 14 are subject to restrictions if weather conditions remain or become too mild to allow for additional weights.
- The Ministry may place weight restrictions on some provincial highways to maintain them at normal summer weights for these periods if weather conditions don't allow for the increased weight.
- Beginning December 29, winter weights will be in effect for the entire province until the last day in February at which time restrictions may be imposed again until March 14. At 12:01 a.m. on March 15th, summer weights are in effect again.
- In the southwest area of the province, winter weights will not apply until December 1 and will be removed on the last day of February due to historically milder climatic conditions. This area is defined as "*the Alberta border to the west, the South Saskatchewan River to the north to the intersection of Highway No. 4, then along Highway No. 4 to Highway No. 1 east along Highway No. 1 to the junction of Highway No. 6 and then south along Highway No. 6 to the U.S. border.*"
- Municipal roads are under the jurisdiction of individual rural municipalities and they have the authority to set the weight limits.
- However, weights can be restricted at any time through Minister’s order should circumstances warrant.