
 <p style="text-align: center;">STATE OF ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC FACILITIES</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Policy and Procedure</p>		POLICY AND PROCEDURE NUMBER	PAGE
		07.05.030	1 of 3
		EFFECTIVE DATE December 18, 2007	
SUBJECT		SUPERSEDES	DATED
Implementation of Seasonal Highway Weight Restrictions		90-1500	April 17, 1986
CHAPTER	SECTION	APPROVED BY	
Maintenance and Operations	Highways		

PURPOSE

This formalizes the policy and procedure (P&P) of the department on the implementation of seasonal highway weight restrictions.

POLICY

The regional maintenance engineer of each region will impose, amend, and remove highway weight restrictions seasonally as needed to prevent damage or destruction of highways due to heavy vehicles traveling on highways during spring thawing conditions, or at other times in the interest of the traveling public's safety. Seasonal weight restriction implementation and amendments will be preceded by advance notification, three days when feasible, to the public and other state agencies. Exceptions and waivers will be considered and rejected only for cause. The regional maintenance engineer will maintain records of weight restrictions implemented and removed.

PROCEDURE

Public notice before historical date of annual establishment of restrictions

The regional maintenance engineer will publish a notice in the State of Alaska's online public notice system, and in the local newspaper, at least thirty days before the historical date of normal establishment of seasonal weight restrictions in a region. The purpose of the notice is to inform the traveling public of possible restrictions occurring approximately thirty days hence. The notice provides general information on seasonal highway weight restrictions, how they are calculated and applied, where to obtain notification of actual weight restrictions, and the name and contact information for the regional maintenance engineer. A sample public notice is included with this P&P. The notice will remain active in the online public notice system until the actual or projected end of the seasonal weight restriction period.

Basis for implementation of weight restrictions

The regional maintenance engineer will base decisions regarding the seasonal weight restrictions on: historical data, buried thermistor data, weather forecasts, field observations and photographs, and any other objective data which helps forecast the potential for seasonal highway damage due to the passage of overweight vehicles.

The regional maintenance engineer will maintain records of test results, thermistor data, observations, and any other data used to support the application of weight restrictions.

Public notification of weight restrictions

Public notification of weight restrictions will be made by a public notice in the State of Alaska online public notice system

Public notification of weight restrictions may also be made by:

- Legal advertisement in newspapers serving the area affected
- Electronic mail distribution of seasonal weight restriction notices

AUTHORITY

17 AAC 25.100(a)
17 AAC 25.013(a)
17 AAC 25.014(a) - (f)
17 AAC 35.060

IMPLEMENTATION RESPONSIBILITY

Regional Maintenance Engineers

DISTRIBUTION

All department employees via the DOT&PF website

SAMPLE PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE

SEASONAL VEHICLE WEIGHT RESTRICTIONS

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC FACILITIES

CENTRAL REGION

Issue Date: February 15, 2008

This notice is to remind the public and the trucking industry that seasonal weight/load restrictions may be imposed by the Department on its highway system for all vehicles over 10,000 GVW. These annual restrictions are utilized to reduce roadway damage caused by heavy vehicles traveling on highways weakened during spring break up conditions. The weight restrictions are stated as a percentage of legal allowable weight and shall be applied to the maximum axle loading of 17 AAC 25.013(e).

These annual restrictions are very dependent upon weather, local soil conditions and frost depth, but usually occur between March and June each year. Since these restrictions may reduce the allowable gross vehicle weight by as much as 50%, it would be advisable by those affected to transport as much freight as possible prior to the above dates. All State routes, including the Dalton Highway, may be subject to the above limitations.

When imposed, or modified, these restrictions will be posted on the DOT&PF Division of Measurement and Standards and Commercial Vehicle Enforcement webpage. This can be found at: <http://www.dot.alaska.gov>, go to "Travel Info", locate "Commercial" and click on "Weight Restrictions". Then when the State of Alaska Department of Transportation Division of Measurement Standards and Commercial Vehicle Enforcement page displays, click on "Weight Restrictions" again and follow the instruction legend. A legal classification advertisement will not be published in newspapers when the restrictions are imposed or updated.

The Department of Public Safety will be enforcing these restrictions.

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