

THAW ZONES

Québec has three thaw zones, in which the start and end of the load restriction periods are slightly lagged over time. This division of Québec's territory into three zones was established by accounting for the geographical realities, the usual frost depth and the thaw trends in the different regions, the spring weather conditions and the traffic of heavy vehicles in the east-west axis.



Please visit the Government of Quebec's website below for a full guide on spring thaw zones, dates, regulations and restrictions.

[Thaw - load restrictions - Transports Québec \(gouv.qc.ca\)](http://gouv.qc.ca)

THAW PERIOD – PREDICTED DATES

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 2024, the predicted dates of the load restriction period for each of the thaw zones are indicated below.

PREDICTED DATES FOR 2024

Zone 1

From Monday, March 4 (00:01) to Friday, April 12 (23:59)

Zone 2

From Monday, March 18 (00:01) to Friday, May 10 (23:59)

Zone 3

From Monday, March 18 (00:01) to Friday, May 17 (23:59)

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

Maximum Intermodal Payloads - allowable weight content.

M-O Series	Max Payload
M-O Dry (300 Series)	50,000 lbs
M-O Heater (400 Series)	47,100 lbs
M-O Reefer (500 Series)	45,300 lbs