

Dept. of Transportation: Frozen road law takes effect statewide on Saturday

Posted on Friday, Feb 1, 2019

>> WisPolitics is now on the State Affairs network. Get custom keyword notifications, bill tracking and all WisPolitics content. [Get the app or access via desktop.](#)

For more information, contact:

WisDOT Office of Public Affairs

608/266-3581, opa.exec@dot.wi.gov

Law affects log haulers, transport of road salt/sand

Effective Saturday, February 2, 2019 at 12:01 a.m., Wisconsin's frozen road law will expand to include Zone 5 in southeast Wisconsin meaning that beginning Saturday, the frozen road law will be in effect statewide.

The frozen road law allows heavier loads for trucks carrying peeled or unpeeled forest products cut crosswise (not including woodchips), and salt and sand for winter maintenance for a period of time determined by weather conditions. WisDOT and county highway personnel monitor temperature forecasts, along with frost tubes – liquid-filled devices under pavement – to help determine when roads are adequately frozen to accommodate heavier loads.

The declaration is issued once the ground under highway pavement is frozen to a depth of at least 18-inches, allowing the maximum gross weight for trucks hauling logs or salt and sand for maintaining roads in winter to go up to 98,000 pounds on vehicles with a minimum of five axles (from the normal 80,000 pounds). Effective Saturday, February 2, 2019, special permits for hauling the increased weights are not required, however, vehicles must be legally licensed at 80,000 pounds to handle the increased weights. The higher weight limits do not apply to county or local

roads unless authorized by the local agency having maintenance authority. Also, higher weights may not be transported on any highways or bridges specifically posted for lower weight limits.

The “[Motor carrier/trucker](#)” [section of the WisDOT website](#) contains comprehensive information impacting commercial motor vehicle operators including [weight restriction programs](#) and [frozen road declaration](#). Customers can also check a recorded message on the Frozen Road Hotline at 608/266-8417. Haulers with specific questions can contact WisDOT’s Oversize/Overweight Permits Unit at 608/266-7320.