

Great Lakes Timber Professionals Association: The Frozen Road Period begins in Zones 4 and 5 Friday, February 6, 2026, at 12:01 AM CST

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The Frozen Road Period begins in [Zones 4 and 5](#) Friday, February 6, 2026, at 12:01 AM CST. The Frozen Road Period was already in effect in Zones 1 through 3.

The frozen road law allows heavier loads for trucks carrying logs cut crosswise (not including woodchips), and salt and sand for winter maintenance while cold weather allows. The seasonal weight restriction program is one way to protect Wisconsin's investments in roads.

[The department maintains an interactive map for seasonal weight restrictions](#), which shows the frozen roads boundaries, Class II roads and posted roads.

Behind the declaration

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). Special permits for hauling the increased weights are not required in Zone 1 and 2;

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 official WisDOT news release can be found [here](#).

More information on overweight permits can be found on the WisDOT website by searching for [oversize/overweight permits](#). Haulers with specific questions can contact WisDOT's Oversize/Overweight Permits Unit at (608) 266-7320. A recorded message with general information on road restrictions is available by calling (608) 266-8417.

WisDOT Bureau of Highway Maintenance

OSOW Permit Unit

(608) 266-7320

[Permits Website](#)