

Questions

The public facing Posted Road website is found here: [Posted Roads | Maine Department of Transportation](#). Here people can see what DOT roads are posted and track where the state is in the thawing process.

Laws MainedOT follows for Posted Roads is found at this website: [MaineDOT Title 17, Section 229, Chapter 308](#).

Typical questions we receive:

- Can I get a Limited Load Permit to travel over a posted road. Depending on what they are carrying and when will dictate whether a permit is necessary or if they are eligible.
 - No permit is needed if the road is posted and is “frozen”. The definition for frozen is when the air temperature is less than 32 degrees Fahrenheit and no standing water is showing in the cracks of the road. Alternatively, if the air temperature is 32 degrees Fahrenheit or below and there is water showing in the cracks of the highway, the highway will be considered “frozen” if the adjacent gravel driveways, shoulders, or lawns remain frozen.
 - If the truck is registered less than 23,000 lbs, no permit is necessary. (See Section 5, Item 1)
 - If the truck is registered more than 23,000 lbs and carrying a “Special Commodity” defined in Rule 308, Section I, Items 6 Special Commodity, then a permit may be acquired. Direct them to the Region office.
 - If the registered truck weight is between 23,000 lbs and 34,000 lbs and carrying a special commodity then a permit is not required. For an example, an oil truck. (See Section 5, item 5)
- Delivery trucks can be exempt from needing a permit if:
 - Truck is registered for more than 23,000 lbs and the truck with load is less than 23,000 lbs. (See Section 5, Item 2, last sentence.)
- Limited Load Permits are assigned to a particular truck and commodity. Permit is good for as long as the vehicle is retained by owner when permit was issued.
- A MainedOT Limited Load Permit is only good for MainedOT roads. If a company plan to travel over municipal roads, then they will need to contact the municipality. For municipal information explaining posted roads background, here is a link to <https://www.maine.gov/dot/programs-services/cslr/mlrc/tech/local-road-traffic-issues#heavy> Local Road Traffic Issues | Maine Department of Transportation
- Municipal rules for posted roads are different than Maine Department of Transportation rules. Please visit your local municipalities’ website for their rules.

- When a road is posted with an orange sign, the governing agency must put their contact information on the sign. This is an easy way to determine if the road is managed by the state, municipality or road association.
- When to post a road? When the [Cumulative Freezing/Thawing Indices](#) start to turn yellow-brown is when to post roads. This is an indication the ground is getting soft. This website allows us to see the forecasted future thaw. Clicking on the dates will show forecasted trends.
- When to remove posted road signs? Note, roads running east - west take longer to dry out due to tree shading. When evaluating a road some things to review include water in potholes is gone, water is no longer seen in pavement cracks, shoulders are firm, water in ditches has slowed, grass started growing. These conditions all lead us to make an informed decision when to remove the posting. The Cumulative Thaw Map may say everything is good but always verify before taking signs down.
- If you find commercial trucks violating the seasonal weight restriction, contact police.