



Kent County Road Commission

What Are Seasonal Weight and Speed Restrictions?

The intent of seasonal weight and speed restrictions is to protect the integrity of *non-all-season* roads when frost is coming out of the ground. Normal legal loads must be reduced by approximately 35% and truck vehicle speeds reduced to 35 mph.

Unless a roadway has been designed and constructed for heavy vehicle loads year-round (aka all-season road), a significant loss of strength occurs during a seasonal thaw period. As frost melts beneath a paved road, the roadbed turns wet and spongy because water is trapped between the pavement and the remaining ice layer beneath. Permanent cracks can occur when trucks and heavy equipment travel over the compromised road, and the damage to the road is directly related to the amount and frequency of the loading applied.

State law mandates the institution of weight restrictions from March 1st to May 1st of every year, but the statute also allows the Michigan Department of Transportation and the county road commissions to implement those restrictions earlier or suspend reduced loading, depending on weather and road conditions. Some limited classes are exempt from these restrictions after a permit is filed.

[MICHIGAN VEHICLE CODE, Act 300 of 1949](#), provides details about seasonal weight restrictions and their effect on axle loading and speed limits.

For additional information concerning seasonal restrictions and general trucking questions, please call:

Kent County Road Commission Weighmaster (616) 242-6950

Michigan State Police Motor Carrier Division (616) 242-6677

Michigan Trucking Association 1 (800) MTA-4MTA