



**KENT COUNTY ROAD COMMISSION
BOARD POLICY**

**No.
502**

**Effective Date
2/29/00**

**Revised Date
3/08/16**

Seasonal Weight Restrictions

Policy authored by Engineering Division-Permits

General In an effort to prevent damage of roadways during the exit of frost from the ground, State law mandates the institution of weight restrictions beginning March 1st each year. Individual counties have the right to post weight restrictions before March 1st if weather conditions dictate such action. Restrictions include the reduction of speeds to a maximum of 35 m.p.h., and a reduction of weights by 35 percent. The Kent County Road Commission Official Truck Operators' map that shows the roads affected by weight restrictions is available from the Kent County Road Commission Permit Department.

Agricultural Products and Milk The Michigan Motor Vehicle Code currently makes providing a bond an option in order to obtain a permit for exemption from the seasonal weight restrictions for haulers of agricultural commodities to and from a farm. Agricultural commodities are defined by Section 722(14)(a) of the Motor Vehicle Code, and do not include trees and lumber. The KCRC may legally require a bond for milk haulers, but it is the policy of the KCRC to treat milk haulers the same as haulers of other agricultural commodities.

If a hauler of agricultural commodities or milk elects not to provide a bond, KCRC staff will take the lack of security for potential damages into account in issuing the permit, and may impose additional conditions, as allowed by Section 722(5) of the Motor Vehicle Code, which may include but are not limited to:

1. Designation of a route of travel with the primary goal of avoiding damage to the road, not providing the most direct route or route preferred by the hauler.
2. Limitations on dates and times when roads may be used, such as restrictions to morning hours when lesser damage may be expected.
3. A maximum speed limit of travel, which may be less than 35 miles per hour.
4. Other specific conditions agreed to by the hauler and KCRC to carry out conditions (1) through (3) above.
5. The permit fee is \$250.00 for a seasonal permit.

If a bond is not provided, the KCRC reserves the right to recover damages from haulers who damage County roads, as provided by Michigan law.

If a hauler of agricultural commodities or milk elects to purchase a bond, the bond shall be \$10,000.00 per mile with a minimum of \$5,000.00 for 0.5 miles or less. Because the provision of a bond is optional for milk haulers and haulers of agricultural commodities, if a bond is provided, the KCRC will agree to limit its recovery of damages caused by the weight of vehicles on seasonally weight restricted roads to the amount of bond proceeds received.

Propane Haulers Haulers delivering propane to a residence are exempt from seasonal weight limitations if the vehicle's propane tank is filled to not more than 50% of its capacity and the vehicle is not traveling more than 35 miles per hour.

Public Utility Vehicles – Emergency Work Vehicles owned and operated by a public utility or subcontractor in connection with work performed to restore public utility services or eliminate danger to the public due to natural disaster or emergency situations are exempt from seasonal weight limitations if:

1. The public utility or subcontractor notifies the KCRC, as soon as practical, of the location of the work and provides a statement that the vehicles used to perform the work may have exceeded the maximum loading limitation and gross vehicle weight requirements. Notification may be by facsimile or electronically.
2. The vehicle travels to and from the site while on a restricted road at a speed not greater than 35 miles per hour.

Non-emergency Public Utility Work (Annual Seasonal Permit) A public utility or subcontractor may apply to KCRC annually for a seasonal permit before seasonal weight restrictions are affected. The permit shall contain the following:

1. The seasonal period requested by the public utility or subcontractor during which the permit is valid.
2. A unique identification number for the vehicles and vehicle configurations covered by the permit.
3. A requirement that travel on restricted roads will be minimized and only utilized when necessary to perform public utility work, and the non-restricted roads shall be used for travel when available.
4. A requirement that, in the case of a subcontractor, the permit is only valid while the subcontractor's vehicle is being operated in the performance of public utility work.
5. A requirement that a subcontractor vehicle or vehicle configuration display signage on the outside of the vehicle identifying it as operating on behalf of the public utility.

Public Utility Vehicles – Notification Procedure A public utility or subcontractor vehicle not operating under seasonal permit shall request access to operate on a restricted road by notification to the KCRC, by facsimile or electronically, at least 24 hours before the time of the intended travel (not including Saturday and Sunday hours). The notification shall indicate:

1. The address or location of the non-emergency work.
2. The date or dates of the non-emergency work.
3. The route to be taken to the non-emergency work site and the restricted road or roads intended to be traveled upon.
4. In the instance of a subcontractor, the utility on whose behalf the subcontractor is working.

If the KCRC determines that the condition of a particular road makes it unusable, the KCRC shall deny access to that part of the road by notice communicated via facsimile or electronically within 24 hours after receiving notification, weekend hours excluded. Any notification that is not disapproved is considered approved.

Special Permits In certain limited circumstances, written permission may be given to a non-agricultural commodity/milk hauler to haul loads exceeding seasonal weight restrictions under the following circumstances and conditions:

1. The permit fee for a contiguous segment of roads is \$250.00.
2. The required bond, letter of credit or cash surety shall be calculated as \$10,000.00 per mile with a minimum of \$5,000.00 for 0.5 mile or less.
3. If damage to the road occurs, the permit holder will be assessed charges based on the cost of the repairs, not limited to the amount of the bond, letter of credit or cash surety.
4. If inspections of the permitted road indicate damage is occurring, the KCRC reserves the right to revoke the permit to prevent further damage.
5. Any other specific conditions agreed to between the KCRC and the permit holder.