A. Authority

In accordance with Wisconsin Administrative Code chapters TRANS 254.06(2) and TRANS 255.06(2) and Wis. Stats. Sections 348.26(2) and 348.27(2), the department may restrict travel of vehicles with overweight permits on certain (Class II) roads due to the unstable condition of the roadway subgrade during the period when frost is leaving the ground.

Typically, restrictions on travel include:

1. Restrictions on maximum weight allowed for **single-trip** movement over Class II roads.
2. Travel under annual non-divisible permits becomes more difficult because holders of overweight annual permits must avoid the Class II roads.
3. Travel with single-trip or annual non-divisible overweight permits is not restricted on local or state roads in Milwaukee County or any part of the Interstate Highway System. In the remainder of the state, travel is not restricted under non-divisible annual permits on Class I roadways.

Also during this period, other travel restrictions apply:

1. Suspension of all divisible load permit types on all state highways for the duration of the thaw period.

B. Class II Weight Restriction Map

1. <u>Definitions</u>

   a. "Annual or Multiple-Trip Overweight Permit" means any of the permits which may be issued under Wis. Stats. Section 348.27.

   b. "Single-Trip Overweight Permit" refers to any of the permits which may be issued under Wis. Stats. Section 348.26.

   c. "Class I Road" includes all state highways not classified as Class II.

d. "Class II Road" includes all state highways that are judged to have unstable condition of the roadway subgrade during the period when frost is leaving the ground such that the travel of vehicles with overweight permits would cause undue damage to the highway. District Chief System OperationsManagers shall determine which road sections are in this category each year.

e. "Statutory Load Limits" are those established by Wis. Stats. Section 348.15.

f. "Divisible Loads" are those which could be transported in two or more loads not overweight, such as loads of aggregate, salt, coal, etc.

g. "Non-Divisible Loads" are those which cannot be separated and transported as two or more loads, such as heavy, equipment, mobile homes, etc.

2. Procedure

a. Approximately on December 15th of each year, the bureau of highway operations will request the District Chief System Operations Managers to provide a list of state highway sections that the district has determined are Class II roads, based on their judgment of the roadway and sub-base conditions.

b. These listings will be combined to provide a statewide list of Class II highways. A state map showing Class I and Class II highway sections will be produced by the bureau of highway operations.

c. The map and the list will be posted on the department's Internet web site and linked to from the Division of Motor Vehicles - Permits Section web page www.wisconsindot.gov/Pages/dmv/com-drv-vehs/mtr-car-trkr/ssnl-wt-rsrctns/default.aspx

d. Copies of the map and list will be distributed by the Division of Motor Vehicles - Permits Unit to the following associations for distribution to their members.

1. State Patrol Districts Inspector Sergeants
2. County Highway Commissioners
3. County Sheriff's Department
4. Division of Transportation Infrastructure Development, Bureau of Highway operations
5. Transportation Districts Operations Managers
6. Commercial Permit Services as Agents for O/O Permits Unit
7. Timber Producers Association of Michigan and Wisconsin (T.P.A.)
8. Wisconsin Professional Loggers Association
9. Forest Industry Safety Training Alliance (F.I.S.T.A.)
10. Wisconsin Motor Carriers Association

e. The restriction of single-trip overweight permits and annual non-divisible overweight permits for travel on Class II roads normally begins March 1st and extends to approximately mid-May depending on the weather conditions and the area of the state.

f. The lifting of the suspension in late April or early to mid May, depending on temperatures and roadway conditions, will be publicized by notice on the department's Internet web site and distributed to the list shown in Section B.2.d.

C. Posted Roads

Some roads are posted for less than the legal weight limit. These limitations may apply periodically throughout the year or only during the springtime freezing and thawing period. Refer to Section 37.15, Posted Roads. A permit, either annual or single-trip, does not allow travel at a weight exceeding the posted limit.

D. Local Roads

Annual (**multiple-trip**) permits are not valid on local roads during the springtime freezing and thawing period unless the carrier obtains a single-trip permit from the local road maintenance authority.