



Infrastructure and Transportation

Motor Carrier Division

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Garry Winch
Executive Director
Manitoba Ready Mix Concrete Association
3 Park Ridge Drive
East St. Paul MB R2E 0L6

Dear Mr. Winch:

Manitoba Infrastructure and Transportation is proposing to amend the *Highway Traffic Act* (HTA) to authorize the Minister to temporarily increase weights on highways in three scenarios: when road conditions permit higher weights such as early winter conditions; when highway upgrades are completed; or in emergency situations, where detours are needed due to things such as flooding and landslides. In each of these situations, there is a desire to enable the weight increases to be effective as quickly as possible to reduce any delays in potential economic benefits that Manitobans may derive from increased vehicle loads.

Currently, allowable vehicle weights and dimensions on classes of highways are prescribed by Lieutenant Governor in Council in the *Vehicle Weights and Dimensions and Classes of Highways Regulation* (MR 575/88). While the HTA provides for the Minister to restrict and/or close highways temporarily for things such as necessary repairs or spring road restrictions, there is no parallel ability for the Minister to temporarily increase weights on highways.

The proposed amendments would make it easier and faster for weight increases to be implemented. The Minister's ability to increase weights would be limited to a two-year period. Longer term weight increases would be reflected in the Lieutenant Governor in Council Regulation, MR 575/88.

The amendments would require that Ministerial Orders increasing weights be posted on the department's website with the effective dates. The Motor Carrier Division is also committed to continuing its practice of notifying motor carriers of highway weight/classification changes in advance of the increase taking effect.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding the proposed amendments to the HTA, please contact Jennifer Faulder at (204) 945-4603 or Jennifer.Faulder@gov.mb.ca.

Yours truly,

Darren Christle
Executive Director

c. John Spacek
Lucille McLaughlin
Jennifer Faulder