

GUIDE

regarding the
**SPECIAL ROAD TRAIN OPERATING
PERMITS REGULATION**

2020 Edition



This publication was prepared by the Direction générale de la sécurité et du camionnage and edited by the Direction des communications of the ministère des Transports.

The content of this publication can be found on the Ministère's website at the following address: www.transports.gouv.qc.ca.

Cette publication est également disponible en français sous le titre *Guide concernant le Règlement sur le permis spécial de circulation d'un train routier*.

For more information, you can:

- dial 511 (in Québec) or 1-888-355-0511 (elsewhere in North America)
- visit the website of the ministère des Transports at www.transports.gouv.qc.ca.
- write to: Direction des communications
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REQUIREMENTS, CONFIGURATIONS, LENGTHS AND LOAD LIMITS

In Québec, certain road trains are authorized on the road only if the owner, lessee or operator holds a special permit.

This guide presents the main provisions of the *Special Road Train Operating Permits Regulation*, as well as a few other rules applicable to those combinations of vehicles.

The material provided in this document is for information purposes only. For a legal interpretation, it is essential to refer to the regulatory documents.



Attachment of semi-trailers

The semi-trailer with the greatest total loaded mass must be attached to the tractor, unless the difference in mass is less than 10%.

Axle load

Axle classes and the method used to determine axle load limits are established by the *Vehicle Load and Size Limits Regulation*.

Travel in a straight line

When the road train is travelling in a straight line, none of the semi-trailers may swing more than 80 mm to either side of the tractor.

Dolly

The dolly must be equipped with a pilot relay valve designed to boost the braking signal of the second semi-trailer.

Speed recorder

The road train must be equipped with a device to monitor driver behaviour. The device must record significant speed variations and the following information: date, time and speed of travel.

Axle spread

The maximum spread between axles in the tandem axle or triple axle group is 1.85 m.

Height and width

Limits are provided in the *Vehicle Load and Size Limits Regulation*.

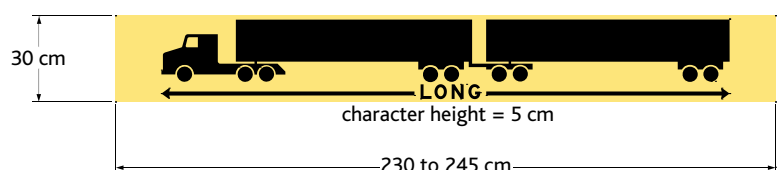
Semi-trailer length

Auxiliary equipment located in front of the semi-trailer is not included when calculating dimensions, as long as such equipment does not increase the road vehicle's load volume or, under the same conditions, the space for the fifth wheel at the back of the first semi-trailer in a Type B double train.

Signage

For a Type A, B or C double train, a sign must be displayed at the rear of the second semi-trailer. The sign must contain a pictogram of a black road train on fluorescent yellow retroreflective sheeting, with the following characteristics:

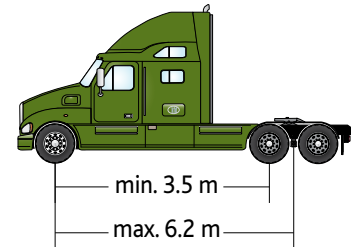
This sign is not required when the vehicle configuration is as follows: tractor + semi-trailer + dolly.



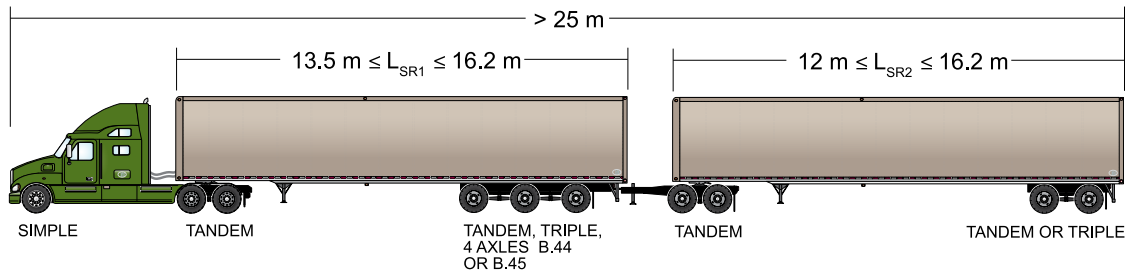
Tractor

A road tractor must have the following specifications:

- Minimum engine horsepower of 1 hp per 180 kg of the road train's total loaded mass;
- The air compressor supplying the braking system must have a minimum capacity of 425 L per min.

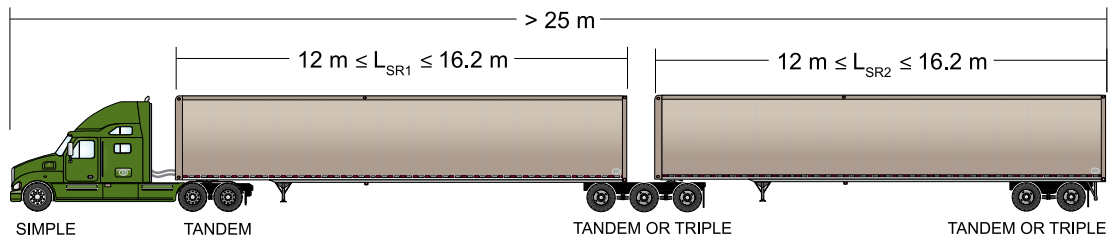


Type A or C double train



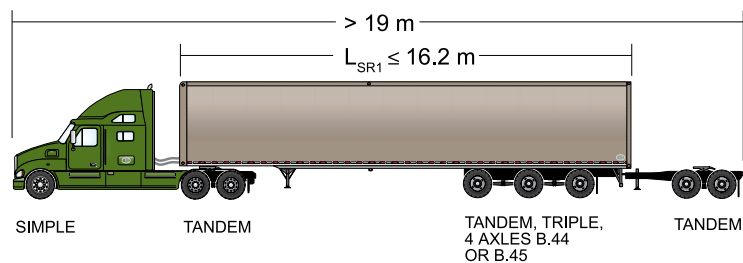
Authorized total loaded mass = sum of the axial loads, without exceeding 67,500 kg

Type B double train



Authorized total loaded mass = sum of the axial loads, without exceeding 67,500 kg

Other configuration of a double train



Authorized total loaded mass: limit authorized by the *Vehicle Load and Size Limits Regulation*, plus 2000 kg.

Period of operation

Road trains are authorized on the road throughout the year. However, operation during winter (December 1 to February 29) is subject to additional rules for the permit holder and the driver.

Dangerous substances

No person may transport dangerous substances on a road train of more than 25 m in overall length if safety placards must be displayed.

Authorized roads

The special operating permit only authorizes road trains to travel on the following roads:

- 1) divided lane highways and their exit and entrance ramps;
- 2) road segments linking a highway's exit and entrance ramps in opposite directions;
- 3) roads that authorize truck travel from a highway exit or entrance ramp for a distance of no more than 500 m;
- 4) roads that authorize truck travel to access an industrial park or a technology park, from a highway exit or entrance ramp, for a distance of not more than 2 km;
- 5) roads in an industrial park or a technology park;
- 6) roads or portions of road referred to in Schedule 1 of the *Special Road Train Operating Permits Regulation*.

Note

The distance of travel off the highway is measured from the junction of the highway entrance or exit ramp and the other road.

Unauthorized roads

The special operating permit does not authorize the permit holder to use autoroute 40 exits 174 or 203 to enter or exit the highway.

Responsibilities of the permit holder

Only holders of special permits can operate road trains. Permit holders must:

- 1) sign the special operating permit or have it signed by a representative;
- 2) notify the Minister of Transport of Québec within two days of any accident or traffic jam caused by the road train;
- 3) be the actual "operator" of the vehicle, within the meaning of the *Act respecting owners, operators and drivers of heavy vehicles*;
- 4) ensure that the driver of the road train complies with regulatory provisions at all times;
- 5) ensure that road trains are in fact permitted to travel on the authorized roads.

A permit holder who operates a road train between December 1 and February 29 must also:

- 6) update, between November 1 and 30, the list of safe stopping locations provided with the permit application;
- 7) provide the driver with a copy of the list of safe stopping locations;
- 8) provide the data relative to a trip, at the request of the Minister and within the prescribed time.

Responsibilities of the driver

The driver must:

- have a special operating permit on hand as well as an attestation of competency to operate a road train (driver's licence with a T endorsement or an attestation from a competent authority outside Québec);
- travel at a maximum speed of 90 km/h;
- travel at least 150 m from any road vehicle preceding it, except when passing is necessary;
- refrain from travelling on the following dates:
 - January 1 (New Year's Day),
 - Good Friday,
 - Easter Monday,
 - June 24 (National Holiday),
 - July 1 (Canada Day), or July 2 if July 1 falls on a Sunday,
 - first Monday in September (Labour Day),
 - second Monday in October (Thanksgiving),
 - December 25 and 26 (Christmas and Boxing Day),
 - any other day set by proclamation or order of the Government as a public holiday,
 - Monday to Friday, from 5:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. on highways located on the island of Montréal, and from 6:30 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. on highways within the limits of the city of Québec,
 - when visibility is less than 500 m or the roadway is snow or ice covered,
 - on unauthorized roads.

From December 1 to February 29 inclusively, the driver must also:

- keep a copy of the list of safe stopping locations provided by the permit holder in the vehicle, in an easily accessible place;
- travel on highways for which safe stopping locations are identified in the list;
- check the weather forecast from two different sources not more than three hours before departure, and refrain from travelling if adverse weather conditions are forecast;
- check network conditions on Québec 511, namely road conditions, roadwork and warnings in effect, not more than three hours before departure, and document the date and time of check.

Permit application

Applications for special road train operating permits must be made through the special permit management system (GPM) at the following address: <https://www.gpm.transports.gouv.qc.ca/Commun/ChoixProfil.aspx>

Permit duration

The special permit is valid for a period of 1 to 12 months, and the cost is the same as that of a Class 1 general permit under the *Regulation respecting special permits*.

<https://www.transports.gouv.qc.ca/en/camionnage/permis-speciaux/exces-charges-dimensions/Pages/exces-charges-dimensions.aspx>

QUESTIONS CONCERNING TRUCKING



Information available on the website of the Ministère at
transports.gouv.qc.ca

- Cargo securement
- Bulk trucking
- International trucking
- Loads and size limits
- Shipping documents and bills of lading
- Act respecting owners, operators and drivers of heavy vehicles
- Dangerous substances
- Special permits
- Trucking network
- Road signs for heavy vehicles



Information available on the Québec 511 website at
quebec511.gouv.qc.ca

- Hindrances related to load and size
- Vertical bridge clearance
- New roadwork sites
- Load limits on bridges and overpasses

