

Ministry of Transportation
Carrier Safety and Enforcement Branch

3rd Floor, 301 St. Paul Street
St. Catharines ON L2R 7R4

Ministère des transports
Direction de la sécurité des transporteurs et
de l'application des lois
3^e étage, 301, rue St. Paul
St. Catharines ON L2R 7R4



April 17, 2020

Mr. Stephen Laskowski
President
Ontario Trucking Association
555 Dixon Road
Toronto, ON M9W 1H8

Dear Mr. Laskowski:

I am writing to inform you that the Ministry of Transportation (MTO) is taking further steps to keep goods moving during the COVID-19 outbreak by temporarily lifting reduced load period restrictions for truck drivers in southern Ontario.

Lifting reduced load period restrictions will help the trucking industry to efficiently move the essential goods that Ontarians need, including food and agricultural products, medical supplies and fuel.

To assist in the government's actions to support Ontario's need to move essential freight and supplies during the current COVID-19 emergency, the Ministry of Transportation is including the commodities listed for exemption in the federal Hours of Service exemptions as issued by Transport Canada (*see below chart*) from Reduced Load Periods across southern Ontario:

1	Medical supplies and equipment related to the testing, diagnosis and treatment of COVID-19;
2	Supplies and equipment necessary for community safety, sanitation, and prevention of community transmission of COVID-19 such as masks, gloves, hand sanitizer, soap and disinfectants;
3	Paper products and other groceries for emergency restocking of distribution centers or stores;
4	Immediate precursor raw materials-such as paper, plastic or alcohol-that are required and to be used for the manufacture of items in categories (1), (2) or (3);

5	Fuel;
6	Equipment, supplies and persons necessary to establish and manage temporary housing, quarantine, and isolation facilities related to COVID-19;

To assist farmers and agribusinesses, the Ministry of Transportation also plans to temporarily exempt the following commodities:

- Food;
- Farm products; and
- Products that support the production of farm products (e.g. seed, animal feed, fertilizer)

These measures will only be applicable to the portions of southern Ontario, defined by regions south of the Ontario frost penetration depth of 1.6 m which runs along a line extending from Penetanguishene, through Lake Simcoe to Cornwall, including the following geographic areas:

1. The geographic areas of Brant, Bruce, Chatham-Kent, Dufferin, Durham, Elgin, Essex, Grey, Haldimand, Halton, Hamilton, Huron, Lambton, Middlesex, Niagara, Norfolk, Northumberland, Oxford, Peel, Perth, Peterborough, Prince Edward, Simcoe, Toronto, Waterloo, Wellington or York.
2. The part of each of the following geographic areas that is south of that part of the King's Highway known as No. 7:
 - i. Frontenac.
 - ii. Hastings.
 - iii. Kawartha Lakes.
 - iv. Lennox and Addington.
3. The part of the geographic area of Leeds and Grenville that is within the City of Brockville or that is within one of the following townships:
 - i. Athens.
 - ii. Elizabethtown-Kitley.
 - iii. Front of Yonge.
 - iv. Leeds and the Thousand Islands.

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As you are aware, the Reduced Load Period allows the local road authority to implement Section 122 of the *Highway Traffic Act*, via local bylaws, to protect pavement infrastructure during the spring thaw period.

The ministry is always open and willing to consider ideas to reduce the burden for Ontario businesses while maintaining road safety. This is a temporary regulation in response to the COVID-19 outbreak, in effect until June 30, 2020.

Our food supply chain is one of the strongest in the world, and our government will continue to work with municipalities, the trucking industry, agricultural sector and retailers to ensure the people of Ontario have access to the supplies they need.

Thank you for your understanding and support.

Sincerely,

Original Signed by

Andrew Chase
Director
Carrier Safety and Enforcement Branch