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**IDAPA 39  
TITLE 03  
CHAPTER 14**

**39.03.14 - RULES GOVERNING POLICY DURING SPRING BREAKUP SEASON**

**000. LEGAL AUTHORITY.**

This rule, governing the policy used during spring breakup season, is adopted under the authority of Sections 40-312 and 49-1005, Idaho Code. (8-25-89)

**001. TITLE AND SCOPE.**

This rule states the size, weight or speed limit restrictions the Department may place on the state highway system if the operation of vehicles could cause damage to the road due to climatic or other conditions. (10-2-89)

**002. -- 009. (RESERVED).**

**010. DEFINITIONS.**

Refer to Rule 39.03.01 for definitions of the terms used in this rule. (10-2-89)

**011. -- 099. (RESERVED).**

**100. TYPE OF LOAD RESTRICTIONS.**

Depending upon the type of road construction, the amount of moisture, temperature conditions, and severity of frost heaves and breakup, routes or sections of routes will be posted for restricted loadings to one (1) of the following categories as required to protect the roadway and in the interests of public safety. 1) Maximum of legal allowable weight, 2) Maximum of sixteen thousand (16,000) pounds on any axle, 3) Maximum of fourteen thousand (14,000) pounds on any axle, and 4) Maximum of twelve thousand (12,000) pounds on any axle. (8-4-95)

**101. -- 199. (RESERVED).**

**200. WEIGHT LIMITS BASED ON TIRE SIZES.**

In administering load limits based on tire sizes or width of tires, credit for tubed tires will be based on the manufacturer's width marked on the tire; for example, a ten point zero-zero by twenty-four (10.00 x 24) tire will be given credit for ten (10) inches of tire width. Tubeless tires will be given credit for the width of the conventional tubed tires which they replace. (10-2-89)

**201. WIDTH LIMITATION ON TWO LANE ROAD.**

A spring breakup weight restriction to less than legal weight shall automatically place a restriction on width allowed by special permit. On any section of highway restricted to less than legal weight, the maximum width by special permit shall be restricted to twelve (12) feet six (6) inches during the period of the weight restriction. (8-25-94)

**202. SPEED RESTRICTIONS.**

On those sections of highways which are posted for a maximum of legal loads, or to less than legal loads, trucks and buses with a gross weight of ten thousand (10,000) pounds or more will be restricted in critical areas to a maximum speed of thirty (30) miles per hour. Restricted speed zones will be marked by red and yellow markers. A red marker will mean speed is restricted to thirty (30) miles per hour and a yellow marker will mean that legal speed may be resumed. These markers will generally be attached to existing highway sign posts and when properly used will afford protection to the highway subgrade and surface as well as speeding the flow of traffic. (10-2-89)

**203. -- 299. (RESERVED).**

**300. SPECIAL PERMIT POLICY DURING SPRING BREAKUP.**

**01. Suspended Weight Limits.** Normal overweight special permit limits will be suspended on all highways in the area when seasonal load and speed restrictions are imposed. (10-2-89)

**02. Weight Restrictions.** Spring breakup weight restrictions are primarily concerned with limiting the

weight imposed on the highway by individual axles rather than the total gross weight of vehicles or vehicle combination. It will therefore be permissible to issue overweight permits which exceed legal allowable total gross load for a vehicle combination subject to these conditions: (10-2-89)

- a. Minimum tire width is ten (10) inches or larger. (10-2-89)
- b. Maximum axle weight on single axle having two (2) single wheels shall not exceed ten thousand (10,000) pounds. (10-2-89)
- c. Maximum axle weight on single axle having four (4) or more tires shall not exceed fourteen thousand (14,000) pounds. (10-2-89)
- d. Permits for nonreducible loads only. (10-2-89)

**301. -- 399. (RESERVED).**

**400. LEGAL WEIGHT LIMITS MAINTAINED ON CERTAIN HIGHWAYS.**

The policy of the Department will be to maintain legal load limits on the Interstate highway system and arterials serving through state traffic or connecting major termini, unless conditions are such that severe breakup will result. (10-2-89)

**401. ENFORCEMENT OF POSTED WEIGHT AND/OR SPEED RESTRICTIONS.**

The Districts will sign and mark affected state highways the day before the weight and/or speed restrictions are in effect. The weight and/or speed restrictions will be enforced the day after the Districts sign and mark a state highway. Customers who subscribe to the load limit bulletin receive advance notification via mail from the permit office of upcoming weight and/or speed restrictions. (8-4-95)

**402. TEMPORARY SUSPENSION OF POSTED WEIGHT AND SPEED RESTRICTIONS.**

**01. Why Required.** Spring breakup restrictions are required because of a seasonal characteristic in which freeze/thaw cycles occur, making the roadway unstable and reducing its load-bearing capability. The load-bearing capacity may be temporarily restored by a freeze-up of the pavement after a section has been posted for load and speed restrictions. (10-2-89)

**02. Temporary Waiver of Spring Breakup.** District Engineers may provide a temporary waiver of the spring breakup restrictions by posting GREEN markers on the speed limit signs, and on other signs, if appropriate, within a section of highway posted for reduced loads. In addition to posting green markers, a twice-daily status of the posted section will be provided by the area Maintenance Foreman to the District Maintenance Office, who will notify area State Police, Ports of Entry, and the local Sheriff's office and permit office. (8-25-94)

**403. SPECIAL ALLOWANCES FOR EMERGENCY AND CRITICAL SERVICE VEHICLES.**

District Engineers may allow exceptions to the spring breakup weight restrictions for emergency and critical service vehicle(s), ie. fire trucks, heating fuel trucks, and other such service vehicles which are critical to the health and safety of the public. Documentation of special allowance shall be in writing from the District Engineer and must be carried in the vehicle. (8-4-95)

**404. LOAD LIMIT BULLETIN.**

The Department shall publish a bulletin twice weekly listing the highways restricted under the provisions of this rule. Such bulletin shall only be published when such restrictions exist. A subscription for this bulletin shall be available for a fee of fifteen dollars (\$15) per calendar year January 1 to December 31. (8-4-95)

**405. -- 999. (RESERVED).**

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