

**CHAPMAN
ROAD POSTING ORDINANCE**

Section 1. Purpose and Authority

The purpose of this "Ordinance Restricting Vehicle Weight on Posted Ways" (hereinafter, the "Ordinance") is to prevent damage to town ways and bridges in the town of Chapman which may be caused by vehicles of excessive weight, to lesson safety hazards and the risk of injury to the traveling public, to extend the life expectancy of town ways and bridges, and to reduce the public expense of their maintenance and repair. This Ordinance is adopted pursuant to 30-A M.R.S.A. § 3009 and 29-A M.R.S.A. §§ 2395 and 2388.

Section 2. Definitions

The definitions contained in Title 29-A M.R.S.A. shall govern the construction of words contained in this Ordinance. Any words not defined therein shall be given their common and ordinary meaning.

Section 3. Restrictions and Notices

The Town Manager or Road Commissioner may, either permanently or seasonally, impose such restrictions on the gross registered weight of vehicles as may, in their judgment, be necessary to protect the traveling public and prevent abuse of the highways, and designate the town ways and bridges to which the restrictions shall apply.

Whenever notice has been posted as provided herein, no person may thereafter operate any vehicle with a gross registered weight in excess of the restriction during any applicable time period on any way or bridge so posted unless otherwise exempt as provided herein.

The notice shall contain, at a minimum, the following information: the name of the way or bridge, the gross registered weight limit, the time period during which the restriction applies, the date on which the notice was posted, and the signatures of the municipal officials. The notice shall be conspicuously posted at each end of the restricted portion of the way or bridge in a location clearly visible from the traveled way.

Whenever a restriction expires or is lifted, the notices shall be removed wherever posted. Whenever a restriction is revised or extended, existing notices shall be removed and replaced with new notices. No person may remove, obscure or otherwise tamper with any notice so posted except as provided herein.

Section 4. Exemptions

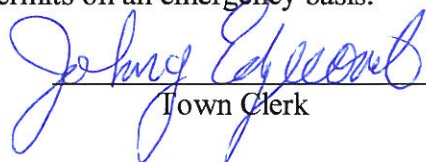
Vehicles that are exempt from the Maine Department of Transportation's (MDOT) "Rules and Regulations Restricting Heavy Loads on Closed Ways", a copy of which is attached hereto and is hereby incorporated as part of this Ordinance, are exempt from this Ordinance. In addition, any vehicle delivering home heating fuel and operating in accordance with a permit issued by the MDOT under 29-A M.R.S.A. § 2395 (4) may travel over any public way within this municipality without a permit hereunder.

Section 5. Permits

The Road Commissioner or Town Manager may issue permits on an emergency basis.

3-6-02
Date

Certified By


Town Clerk

**ATTACHMENT TO CHAPMAN
ROAD POSTING ORDINANCE**

RULES AND REGULATIONS RESTRICTING HEABY LOADS ON CLOSED WAYS

SUMMARY: The following rules and regulations restrict heavy loads on posted State and State Aid Highways from November 15 to June 1, pursuant to the Department's authority under Title 29-A M.R.S.A., Section 2395.

1. DEFINITIONS

A. The definitions contained in Title 29-A, Section 101 of the Maine Revised Statutes Annotated shall govern the construction of the words contained in this regulation.

B. Gross weight is the combined weight of the vehicle and its load.

C. Special Mobile Equipment. "Special Mobile Equipment" shall mean every self-propelled vehicle not designed or used primarily for the transportation of persons or property but which is operated over the highways, including road construction or maintenance machinery, ditch-digging apparatus, stone crushers, air compressors, power shovels, cranes, graders, rollers, trucks used only as snowplows and for carrying sand for ballast only, well drillers and wood-sawing equipment used for hire. This enumeration shall be deemed partial and shall not operate to exclude other such vehicles which are within the general terms of this section.

2. DESIGNATED CLOSED WAYS

In order to prevent excessive damage to State and State-Aid Highways, the Director of Bureau of Maintenance and Operations or the Division Engineer in whose Division the highway lies may close all or part of a highway to heavy vehicles during any time from November 15 to June 1. No vehicles shall travel over closed ways except those permitted by this regulation.

3. NOTICE

Notice shall be given by erecting at each end of the closed highway a poster indicating the following: (1) the date of the posting, (2) a description of the highway closed, (3) a summary of the vehicles exempt from the closing, (4) the name of the Division Engineer and (5) statutory and regulatory references.

4. EXEMPTION – FROZEN HIGHWAYS

This regulation shall not apply to any closed highway which is solidly frozen. The highway is considered "solidly frozen" only when the air temperature is 32 degrees Fahrenheit or below **and** no water is showing in the cracks of the road. **Both** conditions must be met.

5. EXEMPT VEHICLES

The following vehicles are exempt from this regulation:

A. Any vehicle or combination of vehicles registered for a gross weight of 23,000 pounds or less.

B. Any vehicle or combination of vehicles registered for a gross weight in excess of 23,000 pounds and traveling without a load other than tools or equipment necessary for the proper operation of the vehicle. This exemption does not apply to special mobile equipment.

It shall be a defense to a violation of this sub-section if the combined weight of any vehicle or combination of vehicles registered for a gross weight in excess of 23,000 pounds and its load is in fact less than 23,000 pounds.

C. Maine Department of Transportation highway maintenance vehicles or vehicles under the direction of a public jurisdiction with permission of the Department engaged in emergency maintenance of public highways or appurtenances thereto.

D. Passenger cars, pickup trucks, emergency vehicles, school buses, and vehicles with three axles or less under the direction of a public utility and engaged in plant maintenance or repair. See: Amendment, Posted Road Rules

E. Any vehicle transporting home heating fuel (oil, gas, coal, stove-size wood) to a private consumer, gasoline, groceries, bulk milk, bulk feed, solid waste, rubbish, or medical gases may apply for an exemption certificate (included). These vehicles must be registered in excess of 23,000 pounds and must be carrying a partial load with a weight equal to or less than that indicated on an exemption certificate issued by the Maine Department of Transportation (included). This certificate shall accompany the vehicle at all times as shall weigh slips delivery slips, or bills of lading for the load being carried. The allowable weight indicated on the exemption certificate will be based on weights listed in the table included. Applicants for exemption certificates must present a certified weigh slip for the empty weight of the unloaded vehicle as a prerequisite to obtaining an exemption certificate.

F. Any combination vehicle of five axles or more weighing 80,000 pounds gross or less hauling perishable products. A permit issued by the Department of Transportation shall accompany any load of perishable products. (See STATE OF MAINE Trip Ticket for Perishable Products).

G. Division Engineers, at their discretion and in extraordinary circumstances, may allow heavy loads over posted roadways involving singular, nonrecurring moves. Such permission shall be made in writing and shall accompany the vehicle at all times.