

County of Simcoe

Winter Maintenance Standard

This maintenance standard is issued for the purpose of planning the winter plowing operations and procedures on County of Simcoe Roads. Simcoe County recognizes the Minimum Maintenance Standards for Municipal Highways, Ontario Regulation 239/02 as amended, and shall generally conform to the requirements of sections 3, 4 and 5.

The County of Simcoe Winter Maintenance Season shall be for the period of November 1 to April 15.

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

CLASS 1 – roads carrying traffic volume equal to or greater than 23,000 vehicles per day

CLASS 2 - roads carrying traffic volume equal to or greater than 5,000 vehicles per day and less than 22,999 vehicles per day

CLASS 3 - roads carrying traffic volume equal to or greater than 1,000 vehicles per day and less than 5,000 vehicles per day

CLASS 4 – roads carrying less than 1000 vehicles per day

Patrolling

1. (1) The minimum standard for the frequency of patrolling of highways to check for conditions described in the Regulation is set out in the Table to this section.

(2) If it is determined that the weather monitoring referred to in section 2.1 indicates that there is a substantial probability of snow accumulation on roadways, ice formation on roadways or icy roadways, the minimum standard for patrolling highways is, in addition to that set out in subsection (1), to patrol highways that the municipality selects as representative of its highways, at intervals deemed necessary by the municipality, to check for such conditions.

(3) Patrolling a highway consists of observing the highway, either by driving on or by electronically monitoring the highway, and may be performed by persons responsible for patrolling highways or by persons responsible for performing highway maintenance activities.

PATROLLING FREQUENCY

Class of Road	Patrolling Frequency
1	3 times every 7 days
2	2 times every 7 days
3	once every 7 days
4	once every 14 days
5	once every 30 days

Weather Monitoring

2. (1) From October 1 to April 30, the minimum standard is to monitor the weather, both current and forecast to occur in the next 24 hours, once every shift or three times per calendar day, at intervals determined by the municipality.
- (2) From May 1 to September 30, the minimum standard is to monitor the weather, both current and forecast to occur in the next 24 hours, once per shift.

Plowing Standard

3. (1) The minimum standard for addressing snow accumulation is,
 - a) after becoming aware of the fact that the snow accumulation on the roadway is greater than the depth as set out in the Table to this section, to deploy snow-clearing resources as soon as practicable to address the snow accumulation; and
 - b) after the snow accumulation has ended, to clear the snow to a depth less than or equal to the depth set out in the Table within the time set out in the Table,
 - (i) to provide a minimum lane width of the lesser of three metres for each lane or the actual lane width, or
 - (ii) on a Class 4 or Class 5 highway with two lanes, to provide a total width of at least five metres.
- (2) If the depth of snow accumulation on a roadway is less than or equal to the depth set out in the Table to this section, the roadway is deemed to be in a state of repair with respect to snow accumulation.

(3) For the purposes of this section, addressing snow accumulation on a roadway includes, but is not limited to,

- (a) plowing the roadway;
- (b) salting the roadway;
- (c) applying abrasive materials to the roadway; or
- (d) any combination of the methods described in clauses (a), (b) and (c).

(4) This section does not apply to that portion of the roadway designated for parking.

(5) In this section,

“snow accumulation” means the natural accumulation of any of the following that, alone or together, covers more than half a lane width of a roadway;

- (i) New fallen snow.
- (ii) Wind-blown snow.
- (iii) Slush

SNOW ACCUMULATION TABLE

Class of Highway	Depth	Time
1	2.5 cm	4 hours
2	5cm	6 hours
3	8cm	12 hours
4	8cm	16 hours

Icy roadways

4. (1) The minimum standard for the prevention of ice formation on roadways is doing the following in the 24-hour period preceding an alleged formation of ice on a roadway:
- 1. Monitor the weather in accordance with section 2.1.
 - 2. Patrol in accordance with section 1.
 - 3. If the municipality determines, as a result of its activities under paragraph 1 or 2, that there is a substantial probability of ice forming on a roadway, treat the roadway within the time set out in the Table to this section, starting from the time that the municipality determines is the appropriate time to deploy resources for that purpose.

(2) If the municipality meets the minimum standard set out in subsection (1) and, despite such compliance, ice forms on a roadway, the roadway is deemed to be in a state of repair until the earlier of,

(a) the time that the municipality becomes aware of the fact that the roadway is icy; or

(b) the applicable time set out in the Table to this section for treating the roadway to prevent ice formation expires.

(3) The minimum standard for treating icy roadways after the municipality becomes aware of the fact that a roadway is icy is to treat the icy roadway within the time set out in the Table to this section, and an icy roadway is deemed to be in a state of repair until the applicable time set out in the Table for treating the icy roadway expires.

(4) For the purposes of this section, treating a roadway means applying material to the roadway, including but not limited to, salt, sand or any combination of salt and sand.

ICY ROADWAYS

Class of Highway	Time
1	3 hours
2	4 hours
3	8 hours
4	12 hours