

VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC

Chapter 116 VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC

Article I Traffic Regulations

116-1. Limitations on hauling

[History: Adopted by the Board of Selectmen of the Town of Northwood]

- A. Purpose. Be it known that the Town of Northwood pursuant to RSA 41:11, 231:191 and 266:18, by its Selectmen, in accordance with their determination that road weight limits are required to prevent unreasonable damage or extraordinary municipal maintenance expenses as a result of intensification of overweight vehicles traveling on Town roads, hereby declare it unlawful for any person to operate without a special permit from the Town as defined below: (See Appendix A for road listings)
1. During Spring thaw season, any wheeled vehicle weighting more than 12,000 pounds (6 tons) on roads so posted,
 2. At other times of the year when weather conditions may make certain posted roads particularly vulnerable to damage by vehicular traffic,
 3. At any time any wheeled vehicle weighting more than six (6) tons travels on any Class VI road within the Town of Northwood.
- B. Temporary closures. The Selectmen reserve the right to temporarily add roads to those listed in the appendices, or to amend the stated weight limits, without amendment to this ordinance, when it is deemed necessary to do so, either to prevent unreasonable damage or extraordinary municipal maintenance expense, or to reclassify the weight limit of a road. The dates on which one or more specific roads shall have weight limits posted or lifted shall be determined by the Board of Selectmen, upon advice of the Road Agent. Any temporary changes shall be effective for as long as necessary.
- C. Posting. Notices of weight limits shall be posted at the entrances of all limited weight roads via clearly legible signs of weather resistant materials. The Road Agent shall maintain a record of effective dates of the posting, as well as dates of removal of the signs. A copy of the information shall be transmitted to the Administrative Assistant and the Police Chief.
- D. Special Permit. The Road Agent, Board of Selectmen, or their designee may issue a special permit for the operation of overweight vehicles on posted Class V town roads, and to the point of the last private driveway cut on Class VI town roads, if in their opinion that the vehicle is not likely to cause unusual damage to the road or be detrimental to public safety, considering the weather conditions and the nature of and intended use of the vehicle.

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The Road Agent may issue a special permit for the operation of overweight vehicles on posted roads where there is reasonable certainty that the operation of said vehicles might potentially cause abnormal damages to the road, if the owner of the vehicle deposits in advance a surety in the form of a letter of credit, or bond guaranteed by an insurance or bonding company licensed to do business in the State of New Hampshire, in an amount the Board of Selectmen or their designee determines to be sufficient to pay for the repair of all damage the vehicles might cause due to exceeding weight limits. No permit shall be issued, however, regardless of surety, which could be detrimental to public safety. The form of the bond and appendices to be used for exemptions are approved herewith as Appendix B. In cases of Class VI roads, where surety will be required, there shall be a three (3) days prior written notice given to abutting property owners and to the Northwood Conservation Commission. Any permit issued may apply to points past the last private driveway cut on the Class V section of the road.

D. Application. The provisions of this ordinance shall apply to the following types of vehicles:

1. Semi-vehicles making delivery of manufactured housing, manufacturing supplies, equipment with a weight of 30 tons or more. Permit to be obtained prior to delivery from the Northwood Building Inspector/Code Enforcement Officer.
2. Logging trucks that will make more than one trip on a road during a particular logging operation. Permit to be obtained from Town Business office prior to start of operation at time Intent to Cut is filed.

E.. Exceptions. The provisions of this ordinance shall not apply to:

1. Emergency vehicles
2. Any vehicle operated by the Town. Limitations on and liability of the operation of vehicles contracted to the town shall be subject to appropriate contract arrangements.
3. Utility service vehicles (electric, telephone, cable TV, for example) responding to service calls and repair work which are emergency in nature.
4. Delivery vehicles (mail, parcel, fuel, food, for example) on routine delivery routes.

F. Appeal. Any person, who is aggrieved by the Road Agent issuing, or refusing to issue a special permit or the amount or conditions of a bond, may, within five (5) working days of the decision of the Road Agent and not thereafter, appeal that decision, in writing, to the Board of Selectmen. Within five (5) working days of receipt of such written appeal, the Board of Selectmen shall consider the appeal and affirm, modify or set aside the decision of the Road Agent.

G.. Any provision of any ordinance which is inconsistent with this ordinance is hereby repealed.

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- H. Weight limits. Effective with the adoption of this ordinance, the limits set forth in RSA 266:18-a, 266:18-b, and 266:18-c are hereby adopted.
- I. Penalties. Any person who violates any provision of this ordinance shall be guilty of a violation if a natural person, or guilty of a misdemeanor if any other person and in addition shall be liable for the cost of restoration of the road to a condition satisfactory to the Board of Selectmen or its designee and shall be subject to a penalty of up to One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00).

116-2. Loud, unusual or other unnecessary noises

[History: Adopted by the Annual Town Meeting of the Town 3-9-1982 as Question 5.]

- A. Purpose. It is the declared intent and purpose of this ordinance to prohibit any vehicle, in any way, in the Town of Northwood from making any loud, unusual, or other unnecessary noise as hereinafter defined.

- 1) Vehicle – The word “vehicle” shall include bus, highway equipment, motorcycle, motor truck, motor vehicle, semi-trailer, side car, tractor or other vehicle, all as defined by RSA 259:1.
- 2) Way – The word “way” shall include crosswalk, intersection way or other public highway, or other way, all as defined by RSA 259:1.
- 3) Loud, Unusual, or other Unnecessary Noise – The words “loud, unusual or other unnecessary noise” shall include any noise occasioned by any one or more of the following actions of the operator of any vehicle:
 - a) Misuse of power; exceeding tire traction limits in acceleration, sometimes known as “laying down rubber” or “peeling rubber”, or
 - b) Misuse of braking power: exceeding tire traction limits in deceleration where there is no emergency, or
 - c) Rapid acceleration by means of quick down-shifting of transmission gears with either a clutch and manual transmission or an automatic transmission, or
 - d) Rapid deceleration by means of quick down-shifting of transmission gears with either a clutch and manual transmission or an automatic transmission, or
 - e) Racing of engines by manipulation of the accelerator, gas pedal, carburetor, or gear selection whether the vehicle is either in motion or standing still, or