



TIBBITT TO CONTWOYTO
Winter Road ♥ Joint Venture

JOINT VENTURE

Rules of the Road 2025

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Introduction

A. PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The Rules of the road (WRR) have been established by the Tibbitt to Contwoyto Winter Road Joint Venture Management Committee (Joint Venture) to ensure traffic safety and environmental protection. The WRR apply to all persons operating on the Winter Road directly or indirectly under the authority of the Joint Venture. The Winter Road is private for commercial users and their continued access is dependent upon compliance with these rules of the road.

B. DEFINITIONS

- **APPROVED USERS:** Carriers and third-party users authorized by the Joint Venture to access the Winter Road for the purpose of transporting goods and materials
- **CONVOY:** Group of two or more trucks dispatched to travel together on the winter road
- **DESIGNATED DISPATCH POINTS AND CHECK POINTS:**
 1. **Yellowknife Dispatch:** Dispatch point for all haulers
 2. **Meadows Dispatch Point:** Dispatch point for all haulers
 3. **Lockhart Lake Dispatch:** Dispatch point for all haulers
 4. **Lac de Gras Check Point:** Check point for all haulers
 5. **Diavik Mine Site Dispatch:** Dispatch point for Diavik haulers only
 6. **Ekati Mine Site Dispatch:** Dispatch point Ekati haulers only
 7. **Gahcho Kué Mine Site Dispatch:** Dispatch point for **Gahcho Kué** haulers only
- **DESIGNATED REST AREAS:**
 1. **Yellowknife:** Rest area for all haulers
 2. **Meadows Dispatch Point:** Rest area for southbound haulers as needed. Not to be used as a sleeping area for northbound trucks
 3. **Portage 16, 23, 25, 29 & 49 (Portage 25 – Washroom-trailer facility)**
 4. **Lockhart Lake Winter Road Camp:** Rest area for all haulers
 5. **Diavik Mine site:** Rest area for Diavik haulers only
 6. **Ekati Mine site:** Rest area for Ekati haulers only
 7. **Gahcho Kué Mine site:** Rest area for **Gahcho Kué** haulers only

- **DRIVER:** Person operating a motor vehicle including haul trucks and other Commercial Vehicles using the Winter Road.
- **EMPTY ONLY LANES:** Winter road two-way traffic lanes restricted by signage to empty trucks only.
- **EMPTY TRUCK STATUS:** Empty haul truck status remains in effect until the load weight is 5,500 kg or more
- **FLOOD ZONES:** an area where flooders are present. Signs advising that winter road users are entering a flood zone and speed signs must be posted
- **JOINT VENTURE PERSONEL:** Any contractor working on the Winter Road on behalf of the Joint Venture
- **JOINT VENTURE:** Rio Tinto Diavik Diamond Mine (2012) Inc, Arctic Canadian Diamond Company Ltd and De Beers Canada Inc. are the joint venture that manages construction and operation of the TCWR.
- **LADD 1:** For the purposes of the WRR, LADD1 refers to radio frequency 154.1 and is the operational channel and primary means of communication on the Winter Road
- **OVER-DIMENSIONAL/HEAVY:** Loads wider than 4.42 meters (14'6") and/or 33.5 meters (110') long. tractor trailer standard configurations up to and including Super "Bs" in excess of 63,500 kg. Exception: Ingraham Trail, loads wider than 4.88 meters (16') and/ or 29.26 meters (96') long and / or 4.19 meters (13'9") high in accordance with GNWT Large Vehicle Regulations.
- **ROAD NUMBER:** Sequential number and corresponding placard assigned to each haul truck driver by Yellowknife Dispatch to be placed in the lower left corner of windshield
- **WINTER ROAD CONTRACTOR:** The Company's contracted by the Joint Venture to construct and maintain the Winter Road
- **WHEEL CHOCKS:** Commercially Manufactured Wheel Chock; minimum dimension of 241mm (9.5") wide by 152mm (6") high
- **WINTER ROAD:** Refers to the Tibbitt to Contwoyto Winter Road and Ingraham Trail

C. REGULATIONS

General

- a) The Joint Venture reserves the right to amend the WRR at any time.
- b) The Joint Venture may suspend travel on the Winter Road at any time and without prior notice for safety reasons and operational risks.
- c) Seatbelts are mandatory when travelling on the Winter Road

- d) Drivers are not permitted to transport passengers on the winter road unless authorized by the Joint Venture. Requests must be made through the Joint Venture by the carrier company involved.
- e) Speed limits, convoy size, truck spacing, load restrictions and pilot car requirements will be determined by the Joint Venture.
- f) Approved User access to the Winter Road for the purpose of transporting goods and materials must be pre-authorized in writing by the Joint Venture. Third party users must have received and signed a "Third Party Access Agreement" provided by the Joint Venture.
- g) Prior to departing Yellowknife and at all stops along the Winter Road, drivers are responsible for walking around their vehicle, checking for fuel, oil, coolant or other leaks. All spills, no matter how insignificant, must be cleaned up. A pre-trip vehicle inspection report shall be completed by the driver and provided to the carrier company prior to departing Yellowknife. Pre-trip vehicle inspections must be available for inspection by the Joint Venture.
- h) Joint Venture Personnel will respond to all spills in accordance with the Tibbitt to Contwoyto Winter Road Emergency Response/Spill Contingency Plan including notification of the NWT Spill Report Line at (867) 920-8130.
- i) In the event of an accident, spill, or dangerous emergency situation, the incident will be reported to the Joint Venture personnel immediately. Responsible parties will be held liable for any injuries, equipment damage and any immediate or subsequent short term/long term environmental clean-up.
- j) It will be the responsibility of each trucking company to remove any disabled or otherwise stranded trucks and/or equipment operating under their authority from the Winter Road, Winter Road access area or winter road camp as soon as possible. Any costs for the initial recovery of the immobilized vehicle may be charged back to the appropriate carrier company. All invoices should be paid to the recovering agency within the accepted terms.
- k) Drivers are responsible for reporting motor vehicle accidents in accordance with any Territorial statutory requirements and/or trucking company policy.
- l) All Drivers are to report activity involving wildlife including but not limited to abandoned carcasses, injured wildlife, accidents involving wildlife and incidents of wildlife harassment. Incidents with wildlife must be reported to Security. Reports should provide as much detail as possible, including date, time, location, and description of event, vehicle descriptions/registration plate numbers.

D. ENFORCEMENT

- a) Acting on behalf of the Joint Venture, Security, assisted by Winter Road Contractor, will be responsible for controlling traffic flow on the winter road through the enforcement of the WRR, the issuance of reminders, cautions, infraction tickets, conducting traffic related investigations, providing general assistance to road users and responding to emergency situations.

- b) Drivers will be notified of the infraction(s) at the time of the occurrence or as soon as practical by Security. Company representatives will review the HSE system for infractions and inform the driver of penalties.
- c) Security, as authorized by the Joint Venture, will promptly notify companies of Driver suspensions. Upon notification of a suspension, companies are responsible for contacting the Driver and enforcing the suspension.
- d) At the discretion of Security, as justified by the circumstances, cautions may be issued in lieu of infraction tickets for minor violations of the WRR. Cautions will be recorded and Drivers who are found to be subject of repeated cautions may be issued an infraction ticket and penalized in accordance with the WRR.
- e) Unless otherwise specified in the WRR, suspensions will normally take effect upon completion of the current Winter Road trip. If deemed necessary in the interest of public safety, security personnel may suspend a Driver immediately.
- f) Radar and distance/time calculations will be used to determine truck speeds and potential infractions can be issued.
- g) The Ingraham Trail is part of the Winter Road.
- h) Notwithstanding the penalties provided for elsewhere in the WRR, the Joint Venture may impose additional restrictions as deemed appropriate, upon any driver. Such restrictions may include but are not limited to probationary periods and suspension from operating on the Winter Road for the current and/or future seasons.
- i) Carriers may formally appeal any suspension issued under the authority of the WRR. Appeals must be made to the Joint Venture in writing within seven (7) days of the suspension effective date. The Joint Venture will formally respond to written appeals within five business days, during which period the suspensions will remain in effect. Appeals must be directed in writing to the Director, Winter Road Operations.

E. TRAFFIC SIGNS:

- a) Traffic signs will be posted along the Winter Road to clearly show current speed limits, restricted travel lanes, road maintenance areas, road hazards and other information as required to ensure safe traffic flow.
- b) All road users must adhere to traffic signs.

F. CARRIERS

Carriers are to provide a Winter Road Orientation Program for all Winter Road Drivers. The program must include:

- a) Any information that is provided annually at the “Carrier Meeting” must be incorporated into individual carrier’s orientation program for its employees for the upcoming season.
- b) Complete the Joint Venture Winter Road Online Orientation and successfully pass the Winter Road Competency Quiz.
- c) Provide a valid 24-hour contact telephone number for emergency response assistance
- d) General overview of Winter Road travel and trip preparation and ensure the driver has a copy of the Rules of the road
- e) Instruction on the use of tire chains, wheel chocks and troubleshooting mechanical malfunctions including trailer braking systems and clearing frozen air lines.
- f) Review of Joint Venture’s Emergency/Spill Contingency Plan and instruction on dealing with dangerous/emergency situations.
- g) Familiarization with NWT legislation regarding the reporting of spills, logbooks, the illegal use of radar detection devices, reporting of accidents, load restrictions and pilot car requirements.
- h) Review the responsibilities and liabilities of carriers and individual Drivers in the event of an incident including any related, ongoing environmental clean- up.
- i) Carriers are responsible for ensuring new drivers are effectively mentored and not permitted to lead or travel solo until the driver has gained sufficient winter road experience.
- j) Carriers are to ensure all haul trucks are equipped with a sleeper, unless otherwise authorized by the Joint Venture.
- k) Carriers are responsible for ensuring their drivers are properly rested and comply with Territorial Legislation with respect to hours of service and log books.
- l) Carriers are to ensure that drivers are aware that if they do not have heat in the cab of their truck, they are to contact Security or the Winter Road Contractor immediately. They are not permitted to continue their trip until they have cab heat.
- m) Carriers are responsible for ensuring their drivers wear the proper personal protective equipment (hard hat, high-visibility jacket/vest & safety boots) at dispatch point and any time they are out of their vehicle on the TCWR.
- n) Carriers are responsible for their own policies for criminal records checks and driving abstracts. The JV TCWR reserves the right to audit a driver’s profile.

G. RULES OF THE ROAD:

1. Speed Restrictions

- a) Speed restrictions will be clearly posted through signage along the Winter Road.
- b) Unless otherwise posted, the following speed limits will apply:

Loaded truck driving on lakes	25 km/h
Empty truck driving on lakes	40 km/h
Loaded and empty truck driving on portages	30 km/h
Loaded and empty trucks travelling on/off portages	25 km/h
All trucks travelling through flood zones (speed signs must be posted)	10 km/h
Loaded northbound and loaded southbound trucks meet on a lake both must slow to	10 km/h
Passing trucks stopped on lakes	10 km/h
Maximum speed for pick-up trucks and service vehicles (three-ton rating or less) on lakes	90 km/h
Maximum speed for pick-up trucks and service vehicles (three-ton rating or less) on portages	55 km/h
Ingraham Trail	70 km/h
Driving through the Meadows Dispatch area	10 km/h

2. Stopping on Lakes

- a) Drivers may stop on lakes to check their loads, take a short break (45 minutes maximum) and check their truck.
- b) If a driver needs to stop, he/she must advise his/her lead driver and others in the convoy. The convoy may continue their trip. When the driver is ready to commence the trip and if designated as experienced by their carrier, he/she may continue the trip alone. If the driver is not designated as an experienced ice road driver, he/she must wait for the next convoy to continue or contact security for authority to continue.
- c) Should a truck/trailer be required to stop and remain parked on a lake for mechanical or other unavoidable reason, the Driver must:
 - 1. ensure the truck/trailer is parked and clearly marked so as not to present a safety hazard to other traffic and be a minimum of 3 metres from the road berm/snowbank
 - 2. obtain authority from security or Winter Road Contractor

3. make arrangements to have the disabled truck/trailer recovered as soon as possible
4. Any Driver stopping to assist another driver must use caution and maintain a minimum spacing of 300 meters
5. All trucks must slow to 10 km/h when passing stopped trucks on the ice road regardless of boots on the ground or not

3. Stopping on Portages

- a) Should a truck/trailer be required to stop and remain parked on a portage or other Winter Road access area for mechanical or other reason, the Driver must:
 1. ensure the truck/trailer is parked and clearly marked so as not to present a safety hazard to other traffic
 2. obtain authority from security or Winter Road Contractor
 3. Any Driver stopping to offer assistance must use caution

4. Truck and Convoy Spacing

- a) Drivers must maintain minimum of 300 meters spacing between trucks or convoys when travelling on ice on the Winter Road
- b) Drivers must maintain minimum of 1 kilometer spacing between trucks within convoys when travelling on the Ingraham Trail
- c) Convoy leaders must broadcast their marker location every 3-4 kilometers when travelling on the Ingraham Trail.

5. Driving Without Due Care and Attention

- a) Operating a vehicle without due care and attention is prohibited and includes but is not restricted to the following:
 1. Operating a haul truck continuously too close to the snow bank when travelling on lakes
 2. Failing to obey Winter Road signage or other traffic control devices
 3. Using a cell phone while the vehicle is in motion
 4. Failure to wear your seat belt
 5. Unauthorized Solo travel

6. Southbound Loaded Truck Designation

- a) Southbound loaded trucks must travel with emergency flashers and/or rotator lights on
- b) Southbound loaded haul truck drivers must be in possession of documentation verifying the payload weight when travelling on the winter road

7. Right-of-Way, Passing

- a) Winter Road Contractor vehicles have the right-of-way over all Winter Road traffic
- b) Northbound loaded trucks have the right-of-way over all other haul trucks
- c) Trucks exiting “Empty Only” lanes will yield the right-of-way to all other traffic
- d) Empty haul trucks may overtake and pass loaded haul trucks as follows:
 - Prior to passing, empty trucks will clearly communicate their intentions via LADD 1 to the loaded truck being passed
 - Empty trucks will only pass if there is no oncoming or parked traffic.
 - Empty trucks may pass ON THE LEFT SIDE ONLY
 - Three (3) abreast situations created by passing are considered unsafe and not permitted
 - Loaded trucks will maintain their speed when being passed
 - Empty trucks will maintain their speed when overtaking and passing loaded trucks

8. Designated Dispatch Points and Check Points

- a) Yellowknife Dispatch, assisted by Designated Dispatch/Check Point and security personnel, will coordinate Winter Road dispatching.
- b) Yellowknife Dispatch will issue a driver the Winter Road Number.
- c) Designated Dispatch/Check Point personnel will be provided an orientation and training by their employers, to ensure they can safely, consistently, and effectively carry out their responsibilities.
- d) Designated Dispatch/Check Point personnel are responsible for dispatching, controlling and recording Winter Road traffic to ensure road user safety.
- e) Northbound haul trucks departing Yellowknife for the Winter Road are required to report to Yellowknife Dispatch in person with appropriate weigh bill documentation, thirty (30) minutes prior to scheduled departure time unless directed otherwise.
- f) Convoy Leaders are required to report their convoy’s arrival/departure at Designated Dispatch Points and Check Points along the Winter Road via LADD 1

- g) Northbound convoys are required to stop at The Meadows and Lockhart Lake Camp and remain there until they are dispatched.
- h) Drivers will comply with direction given by Designated Dispatch/Check Point personnel
- i) Drivers departing Designated Dispatch/Check Points without authorization is prohibited
- j) Providing false information to Designated Dispatch/Check Point personnel is prohibited

9. Portage Traffic

- a) Convoy leaders and solo drivers must broadcast the portage number they are entering, direction of travel, number of trucks in the convoy and identify any Over dimensional/Heavy loads via LADD1 radio prior to entering all portages
- b) All Drivers must advise opposing traffic of their progress through portages via LADD1 as required to ensure safe traffic flow.

10. Road Numbers

- a) All Drivers operating haul trucks on the Winter Road must be in possession of a valid Road Number
- b) Road number must be displayed placed in the lower left corner of windshield, and must be clearly visible from the outside of the vehicle when operating on the Winter Road

11. Safety Restrictions and Equipment

- a) Haul trucks are restricted to one Driver
- b) While operating a vehicle on the Winter Road, all Drivers must be in possession of survival equipment suitable for arctic climates including but not restricted to a parka, wind pants, winter footwear, headwear and mitts
- c) All haul truck Drivers operating on the Winter Road are responsible for ensuring their truck is equipped with tire chains, wheel chocks, flashlight, reflective traffic triangles, tool kit, methyl hydrate, a minimum dimension of 3m x 3m (10') of heavy mil poly plastic and spill pads
- d) Drivers must know how to install and remove tire chains.
- e) Driving a haul truck with no cab heat is not permitted nor safe. Drivers need to contact JV Security and their carrier and have the situation fixed before continuing on the winter road.
- f) After market high intensity LED lights must not be used while driving on the TCWR.
- g) All haul truck drivers are required to have operable "tow hooks" on the front of their truck

12. Rest Stops at Non-Designated Rest Areas

- a) Drivers who do find themselves unable to safely continue a trip due to fatigue will as soon as possible:
 - 1. Notify the convoy leader of their intentions, stop ensuring their truck is parked so as not to present a traffic hazard
 - 2. Must take reasonable steps to ensure that security personnel are notified of their situation
 - 3. Remain stopped until sufficiently rested to be able to continue the trip safely
 - 4. Resume travel by communicating their intentions to other road users in the area
 - 5. If alone and there is no convoy passing their location, the driver may travel solo and must notify security that they are travelling alone until the next designated dispatch point.

13. Communications

- a) All vehicles travelling on the Winter Road must be equipped with a LADD1 radio
- b) Drivers will monitor LADD1 at all times while operating on the Winter Road
- c) For safety reasons, English is the working language for Winter Road LADD1 communications
- d) Drivers will restrict the use of LADD1 to operational or emergency related communications
- e) LADD1 communications will be conducted in a professional and courteous manner with no profanity

14. Radar Detection Devices

- a) Possession of radar detection devices while operating on the Winter Road is prohibited
- b) Security personnel who have reason to believe a person is in possession of a radar detection device may, with the individual's consent, conduct a search of any vehicle under their control
- c) Refusing to consent to a search in accordance with this section constitutes an offence under this section

15. Dangerous Driving and Unsafe Practices

- a) Operating a vehicle in a dangerous or unsafe manner is prohibited and includes but is not restricted to the following:
 - 1. Operating a haul truck in excess of 15 km/h above the designated speed limit

2. Operating a loaded truck on a designated “Empty Only” lane
3. Operating a truck on the Winter Road during any period that travel has been suspended
4. Loaded trucks overtaking and passing other trucks
5. Intimidating, encouraging or otherwise counselling, any driver or other road user to commit a violation of the WRR
6. Haul trucks towing/pulling other haul trucks is prohibited
7. Passing winter road haul trucks or road maintenance equipment on a portage is prohibited

16. Interference with Joint Venture/Road Maintenance Personnel

- a) All Drivers will stop when requested to do so by Joint Venture personnel must remain stopped until advised otherwise
- b) Any verbal abuse to Joint Venture personnel is prohibited
- c) Knowingly misleading Joint Venture personnel is prohibited

17. Littering and Garbage Disposal

- a) Drivers must carry garbage bags in their trucks at all times for the purpose of storing their refuse for proper disposal at Winter Road camps
- b) Littering on or near the Winter Road is prohibited

18. Spills, Motor Vehicle Accidents, and Dangerous/Emergency Situations

- a) All Drivers operating on the Winter Road shall report any spill, property damage/injury accident or other dangerous/emergency situation to Joint Venture personnel as soon as possible

19. Removing, Altering or Tampering with Signage or Traffic Control Devices

- a) Removing, altering or otherwise tampering with Winter Road signage or other traffic control devices is prohibited

20. Wildlife/Domestic Pets

- a) Feeding wildlife while operating/travelling on or near the Winter Road is strictly prohibited
- b) Drivers are not permitted to transport domestic pets

21. Drugs, Alcohol and Firearms

- a) The possession of drugs, alcohol or firearms on the Winter Road and at all winter road camps is strictly prohibited
- b) Joint Venture personnel who have reason to believe a driver is in possession of alcohol, drugs or firearms may, with the individual's consent, conduct a search of their person and any vehicle under their control
- c) Refusing to consent to a search in accordance with this section constitutes an offence under this section

H. PENALTIES:

Penalties for breaches of the following Winter Road Rules if an infraction ticket is issued are:

1. Speed Restrictions
2. Stopping on lakes
3. Stopping on portages
4. Truck and Convoy spacing
5. Driving Without Due care and Attention
6. Southbound loaded truck designation
7. Right-of-way
8. Designated Dispatch Points and Check Points
9. Portage traffic
10. Road Numbers
11. Safety restrictions and equipment
12. Rest Stops at non-designated Rest Areas
13. Communications
14. Radar Detection Devices

PENALTY

First Offence: Written Warning

Second Offence: 3 Day Suspension

Third Offence: 5 Day Suspension

Fourth Offence: Banned from the Winter Road

(1, 2 or 3 year ban as determined incident circumstance)

Penalties for breaches of the following Winter Road Rules if an infraction ticket is issued are:

1. Dangerous Driving and Unsafe Practices
2. Interference with Security/Road Maintenance Personnel
3. Littering and Refuge Disposal
4. Spills, Motor Vehicle Accidents, and Dangerous/Emergency Situations
5. Removing, Altering or Tampering with Signage or Traffic Control Devices
6. Wildlife/Domestic Pets

PENALTY

First Offence: Banned from the Winter Road (1, 2 or 3 year ban as determined incident circumstance)

Penalty for Drugs, Alcohol and Firearms:

PENALTY

First Offence: Permanent ban from the Winter Road immediately and will not be permitted to continue the trip.