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Commercial vehicle travel ban ordered. Here's what it means.

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Commercial vehicles will be barred from several New Jersey highways beginning at 12 p.m. Sunday as a major snowstorm looms, state officials announced.

The restricted vehicles include tractor-trailers, motorcycles, recreational vehicles, passenger vehicles pulling trailers and “empty straight CDL-weighted trucks,” officials said. They are not allowed on parts of nine highways, although there are exceptions, according to an administrative order from Diane Gutierrez-Scaccetti, the state’s transportation commissioner.

The restrictions don’t apply to the New Jersey Turnpike, the Garden State Parkway or the Atlantic City Expressway. The order does not have an expiration date. Officials asked all drivers to stay off the road Sunday night and Monday if possible.

“The safest place to be is at home,” the department said in a statement.

Restricted highways

Commercial vehicles are restricted from the following roads in New Jersey:

- I-76: From the Walt Whitman Bridge (Pennsylvania border) to NJ Route 42.
- I-78: From the Pennsylvania border to I-95 (New Jersey Turnpike).
- I-80: From the Pennsylvania border to I-95 (New Jersey Turnpike).
- I-195: From I-295 to NJ Route 138.
- I-280: From I-80 to I-95 (New Jersey Turnpike).
- I-287: From NJ Route 440 to the New York State border.
- I-295: From the Delaware Memorial Bridge to the Scudders Falls Bridge (Pennsylvania border).
- I-676: From the Benjamin Franklin Bridge (Pennsylvania border) to I-76.
- NJ Route 440: From the Outerbridge Crossing to I-287.

Several groups are exempt from the restrictions, including police, health care workers and reporters, among others, according to the order.

Trucks on the road when the ban takes effect are “encouraged” to wait out the storm at a truck stop, according to a press release. Drivers should not stop on the shoulder.

Officials also said they were preparing thousands of plows and salt spreaders. The department asked drivers that must be on the road to not pass crews and to drive slow with a full tank.

More information can be found at the state's Office of Emergency Management site. Residents can also check the department's traffic information site for real-time travel news.