



The Great Lakes - St. Lawrence Seaway System
Le réseau Grands Lacs - Voie maritime du Saint-Laurent

Seaway Notice #4 - 2026

Transit Restrictions at Opening

- a. Due to the ice conditions in the MLO Section of the Seaway, ships in the following categories will not be accepted for transit between St. Lambert and Iroquois Locks:

Upbound

- i. Ships with a power to length ratio of less than 24:1 (kW/metre);
- ii. Ships with a forward draft of less than 50 dm.

Downbound

- i. Ships with a power to length ratio of less than 15:1 (kW/metre);
- ii. Ships with a forward draft of less than 25 dm.

- b. In all cases, the draft is to be sufficient to have the propeller fully submerged.
- c. The draft limitations referred to in a) do not apply to tugs.
- d. Subject to approval, ship operators may utilise a tug of a minimum of 3000 HP to augment the power of a ship not meeting the requirements as specified above. In calculating the ship's power to length ratio, 50% of the tug's horsepower can be added to the ship's power.
- e. For determining the power to length ratio, the information contained in the Lloyd's Register will be used.
- f. For ships with a beam greater than 23.0m, the bow thruster must be fully operational.

March 23, 2026