Winter maintenance challenges around the world

Around the world, winter maintenance practices share the same goal: Keep roads safe. There are as many different road weather challenges as there are methods to accomplish the goal.

Temperate climates

Winter maintenance is generally practiced in temperate climates around the world.

Example: Europe

This region is subjected to the influence and interaction of many different air masses, resulting in highly changeable weather from north to south and east to west. Policies and the roles of government and contractors varies.

Example: United States

There are about 32 states that undertake some kind of winter maintenance activity. Clear pavement policies exist to minimize the weather impact on driving, and each agency has their own policy.

North and northeast

Continental climate: Very cold and long winters, large areas of snow cover and usually snow-packed conditions. Specific winter maintenance strategies are needed to manage road safety and mobility.

Northwest

Subject to maritime weather influences: High amount of precipitation with very changeable weather. High risk of frost formation makes timing of weather events very challenging.

Central

Influenced by maritime and continental air masses: Cold winters with potentially heavy snow. Preventing frost formation is the challenge, and action must be close to the time of the event.

Winter maintenance is generally practiced in temperate climates around the world.