Winter maintenance challenges around the world

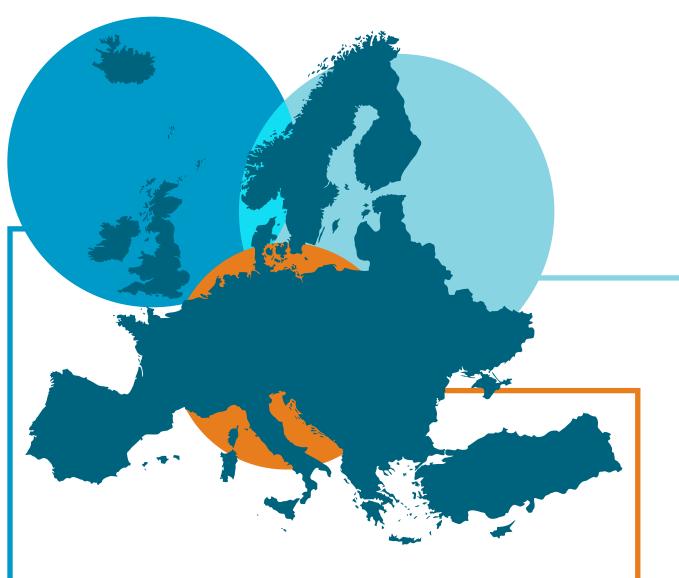
Around the world, winter maintenance practices share the same goal: Keep roads safe. There are as many different road weather challenges as there are methods to accomplish the goal.

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.



North and northeast

Continental climate: Very cold and long winters, large areas of snow cover and usually snowpacked 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.

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, east, midwest and west

Managing the time of onset of a storm is critically important to get ahead of snow removal.

South and parts of the northeast

Focus is on preventing frost formation. Proactive treatment is regularly conducted to prevent ice forming and limit snow bonding.

Vaisala is here to help

From sensors to systems and digital services, Vaisala gives road stakeholders unrivaled road network visibility and decision support — so everyone can keep moving toward better, more insightful ways of operating. We are recognized experts in transportation, and we continue to channel our curiosity into new ways of making roadways safer and more efficient than ever — as reflected in our guiding principles:







Mobility and beyond



The innovators



See, understand, decide

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