

# Tire Chain Requirements

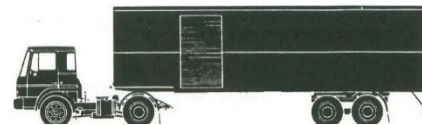
Colorado's chain law **REQUIRES** commercial vehicles with a gross combination weight rating of 26,001 lbs. or more to have 4 or more drive wheels covered with an appropriate traction device. (Except Busses and super singles drive tires with power to only one axle)



## Straight Trucks

Are required to use 4 tire chains; 4 autosocks; 4 tire cables 0.415" diameter or greater; auto chains or sanders covering 4 drive tires. **IF** there are chains on the 2 outside tires of one of the drive axles, any type of tire cable may be used to cover the other 2 tires. Autosocks may also be used to cover the other 2 tires. **Autosocks and tire cables CANNOT be used together.**

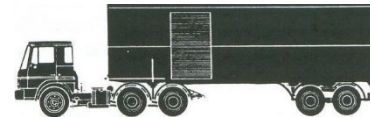
**\*Super single configurations require all drive wheels to be covered. If there is only power to on axle, two super single tires must be chained.**



## Single Drive Axle Combinations

Are required to use 4 tire chains; 2 autosocks; auto chains or sanders covering 4 drive tires.

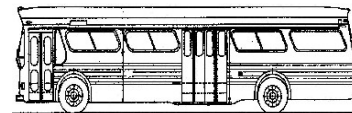
**\*Super single configurations require all drive tires to be covered. NO CABLES ALLOWED**



## Tandem Drive Axle Combinations

Are required to use 4 tire chains; 4 autosocks; 4 tire cables 0.415" auto chains or sanders covering 4 drive tires. **IF** there are chains on the 2 outside tires of one of the drive axles, any type of tire cable may be used to cover the other 2 tires. Autosocks may also be used to cover the other 2 tires. **Autosocks and tire cables CANNOT be used together.**

**\*Super single configurations require all drive tires to be covered.**

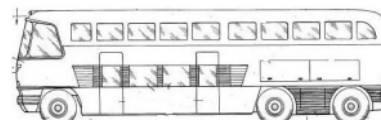


## Single Drive Axle Busses

Are Only Required to Cover 2 Tires

Are required to use 2 tire cables as long as they are 0.415" diameter or greater; 2 tire chains; 2 autosocks; auto chain or sanders

**\*Super single configurations require all drive tires to be covered.**



## Tandem Drive Axle Busses

Are Only Required to Cover 2 Tires

Are required to use 2 tire chains. Autosocks or tire cables may be used as additional traction.

# COLORADO CHAIN LAW FACT SHEET\*

## COLORADO TRACTION AND CHAIN LAW TIRE REQUIREMENTS

Sequence of Code Implementation						
	No Codes	Code 15	Code 15 + Code 17	Code 15 + Code 18	Code 16 + Code 18	Road Closed
Typical Road Conditions	Dry or Wet; Warm, Cool, or Cold	Frozen Precipitation Collecting on Road	Partially Snow Covered	Snow Covered, Icy	Deep Snow and Ice	Unsafe
Single-Drive-Axle Commercial Vehicles 	Safe Tire Tread – Adequate Tread Depth	Adequate traction for conditions	Chains or ATDs	Chains or ATDs	Chains or ATDs	Closed
Double-Drive-Axle Commercial Vehicles 	Safe Tire Tread – Adequate Tread Depth	Adequate traction for conditions	Adequate traction for conditions	Chains or ATDs	Chains or ATDs	Closed
2WD Passenger Vehicles 	Safe Tire Tread – Adequate Tread Depth	M & S Tires or Snow Tires with adequate tread depth, or Chains, or ATDs	M & S Tires or Snow Tires with adequate tread depth, or Chains, or ATDs	M & S Tires or Snow Tires with adequate tread depth, or Chains, or ATDs	Chains or ATDs	Closed
4WD or AWD Passenger Vehicles 	Safe Tire Tread – Adequate Tread Depth	All 4 wheels engaged and tires with adequate tread depth, or Chains, or ATDs	All 4 wheels engaged and tires with adequate tread depth, or Chains, or ATDs	All 4 wheels engaged and tires with adequate tread depth, or Chains, or ATDs	Chains or ATDs	Closed

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### TRACTION REQUIREMENTS DEFINED

#### Tires

Colorado Law\* states: "...motor vehicles...equipped with tire chains, four-wheel drive with adequate tires for the existing conditions, or snow tires with a "mud and snow" or all weather rating from the manufacturer having a tread of sufficient abrasive or skid-resistant design or composition and depth to provide adequate traction under existing driving conditions during storms ..."

#### Chains and Alternative Traction Devices (ATDs)

<b>Tire Chains</b> 	<b>Wheel sanders</b> 
<b>Textile Traction Device (Autosock)</b> 	<b>Automatic chains</b> 

\* This Chain Law Fact Sheet is for reference only. See CDOT Rules 2 CCR 601-14 Rules Regarding Travel Restrictions on State Highways for complete details. Special provisions exist for autotransport carriers, emergency vehicles, tow trucks, and state owned maintenance vehicles. Tire cables are also an acceptable traction device. Additional chain application requirements for trucks and buses are described.

11/30/2015

### PENALTIES AND FINES

Colorado Law outlines the fines that can be levied against motorists in violation of the Chain Law, as follows:

Fine Schedule:

- **Passenger Vehicles:**
  - \$100+\$33 surcharge for violation
  - \$500+\$157 surcharge for incident that blocks traffic
- **Commercial Vehicles:**
  - \$50+\$16 surcharge for not carrying chains
  - \$500+\$78 surcharge for violation when chain law in effect
  - \$1000+\$157 surcharge for incident that blocks traffic

### CODE DEFINITIONS FROM RULES

1.01 "Adequate Tires" shall mean tires with conventional tread with a min. tread depth of 1/8 inch.

1.05 "Code 15" shall mean an implementation of the chain law which restricts all motor vehicles from travel on the state highway unless the vehicle has snow tires or is equipped with tire chains or ATD's or is a four wheel drive vehicle with adequate tires and all four wheels engaged.

3.05 Chain Law Code 15. Chain Law Code 15 may be implemented any time Chain Law Code 18 is in effect and any motor vehicle, other than a CV, is experiencing traction difficulties on an ascending grade. Code 15 may also be implemented on any other road, any time traction difficulties are occurring with any vehicles.

1.06 "Code 16" shall mean an implementation of the chain law which requires the use of chains or ATD's by all vehicles. Under this code, autotransports shall be restricted from travel unless able to use chains or ATD's.

3.04 Chain Law Code 16. Chain Law Code 16 may be implemented any time Chain Law Code 15 is in effect and any motor vehicles are experiencing traction difficulties.

1.07 "Code 17" shall mean an implementation of the chain law that requires all single drive axle CV's in combination meeting the definition 8(a) below be equipped with tire chains or ATD's. All other CV's shall be required to be equipped with tire chains, ATD's or snow tires.

3.03 Chain Law Code 17. Chain Law Code 17 may be implemented any time there is snow cover on any part of the travelled portion of the pavement on an ascending grade.

1.08 "Code 18" shall mean an implementation of the chain law that requires all CV's be equipped with tire chains or ATD's.

3.02 Chain Law Code 18. Chain Law Code 18 may be implemented any time there is snow cover on the entire part of the travelled portion of the pavement on an ascending grade or when in the discretion of the maintenance supervisor or designee, road, weather or driving conditions indicate this restriction is necessary to protect the safety of the travelling public or minimize the occurrence of road closures.

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