







European regulations for winter equipment on trucks and buses

Winter 2020/2021

Country	Tire regulations	Snow chain regulations	Further information
Albania 	No general winter tire regulations.	Snow chains for the drive axle must be carried in the vehicle. Use according to traffic signs and road conditions.	Studded tires prohibited.
Austria 	Winter tires compulsory from 1 November to 15 April. Risk of driving ban and heavy fines if you do not comply (€35 up to €5,000). Trucks > 3.5 t GVW must be equipped with tires marked M+S and/or with the Alpine symbol (3PMSF) on at least one drive axle with a min. tread depth of 6 mm (bias) and 5 mm (radial). Winter tires are compulsory for buses (categories M2, M3) from 1 November to 15 March.	Snow chains must be carried in the vehicle for at least two drive axle tires from 1 November to 15 April. Exceptions for public service buses apply. Use on roads covered with snow and ice.	Studded tires are prohibited for vehicles > 3.5 t GVW.
Belgium 	No general winter tire regulations. Symmetric fitting compulsory for M+S and winter tires.	Snow chains only allowed on roads covered with snow and/or ice.	Studded tires prohibited.
Bosnia-Herzegovina 	From 15 November to 15 April there are two options that are mandatory for vehicles with more than 8 seats and for vehicles with > 3.5 t GVW: Option 1: Tires with winter profile on the drive axle with min. 4 mm tread depth. Option 2: Tires with standard profile with min. 4 mm tread depth; in case of winter conditions (e.g. snow fall, freezing rain), snow chains need to be mounted on the drive axle.	Snow chains must be carried in the vehicle from 15 November to 15 April.	A snow shovel and a bag of sand weighing between 25 kg and 50 kg must be carried in the vehicle. Studded tires prohibited.
Belarus 	No general winter tire regulations.	Snow chains only allowed on roads covered with snow and ice.	Studded tires allowed.
Bulgaria 	From 15 November to 1 March summer or winter tires with minimum 4 mm tread depth are mandatory.	Snow chains must be carried in the vehicle from 1 November to 31 March. Usage is compulsory on mountain passes when indicated by traffic signs.	Studded tires prohibited. Without adequate winter equipment, entry into the country may be refused or a driving ban may be issued.


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Croatia 	Winter tires compulsory from 15 November to 15 April. M+S tires are compulsory on the drive axle of vehicles > 3.5 t GVW.	Snow chains required for the drive axle in certain conditions (if the vehicle is equipped with SU tires). Snow chains compulsory in some regions (Lika/Gorski Kotar).	Studded tires prohibited. Commercially used vehicles must carry a snow shovel.
Czech Republic 	Winter tires compulsory from 1 November to 31 March depending on road conditions in winter, or if indicated by „winter kit“ sign. M+S tires are compulsory on the drive axle of vehicles > 3.5 t GVW with min. 6 mm tread depth.	Differing traffic signs possible. Snow chains are compulsory if indicated by traffic signs on at least 2 drive wheels of vehicles with 3 or more axles.	Studded tires prohibited.
Denmark 	No general winter tire regulations.	Snow chains allowed from 1 November to 15 April.	Studded tires allowed from 1 November to 15 April. Studded tires should be mounted on all tires during this period.
Estonia 	Winter tires compulsory for vehicles < 3.5 t GVW (radial tires with min. 3 mm tread depth) from 1 December to 1 March (also from October to April depending on weather). Heavier vehicles do not require winter tires, but minimum tread depth of 3 mm is mandatory.	Snow chains only allowed on roads covered with snow and ice.	Studded tires allowed between 15 October and 31 March.
Finland 	Vehicles > 3,5 t GVW Dec-Feb: on drive axle min. 5 mm and all other axles min. 3 mm tread depth. Winter tires are mandatory on drive and steer axle, but not defined in the legislation. In explanations, winter tires are defined as M+S.	Snow chains only allowed on roads covered with snow and ice.	Studded tires allowed between 1 November to 31 March if winter conditions prevail. There is no overrun test for studded tires.
France 	No general winter tire regulations. Exceptions are indicated by traffic signs. Winter equipment is mandatory for vehicles driving on roads marked with the B26 sign.	Use of snow chains when indicated by traffic signs.	Vehicles < 3.5 t GVW: Studded tires allowed from first Saturday before 11 November to last Sunday of March, max. speed 90 km/h. Vehicles with studded tires have to be labelled with a sticker. Studded tires are prohibited for vehicles > 3.5 t GVW.
Germany 	„In certain situations in winter conditions. Vehicles < 3.5 t GVW must be equipped with tires marked with the Alpine symbol (3PMSF) from 1 January 2018 on all axle positions. Vehicles with > 3.5 t GVW must be fitted with tires marked with the Alpine symbol (3PMSF) at the wheel positions of the permanently driven axles and front steering axles. From 1 July 2020 at the latest, tires marked with the Alpine symbol are also mandatory for front steer axles. In wintry conditions this is also valid for tires produced as of 1 January 2018. M+S tires produced before 1 January 2018 are accepted as suitable winter equipment until 30 September 2024.“	Use of snow chains when indicated by traffic signs. Studded tires prohibited. Exception: Route via “Kleines Deutsches Eck”.	€60 fine for unsuitable tires; €80 fine for causing obstruction/disturbance of traffic due to unsuitable tires; €100 fine for causing hazardous situation due to unsuitable tires; €120 fine for causing an accident due to unsuitable tires. Plus 1 point in each case (Flensburg points system).
Great Britain 	No general winter tire regulations.	Snow chains only allowed on roads covered with snow and ice.	Studded tires allowed, but only on snow & ice covered roads, and as long as the street surface does not get damaged. Otherwise a regress is possible.
Hungary 	No general winter tire regulations.	Snow chains only allowed on roads covered with snow and ice. It may be compulsory to apply and carry snow chains under certain weather conditions (max. speed: 50 km/h). In wintry conditions, foreign vehicles may be denied access if no snow chains are carried on board.	Studded tires prohibited.

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Iceland 	No winter tire regulation yet, new technical regulation is expected.		
Ireland 	No general winter tire regulations.	Snow chains only allowed when roads covered with snow and ice.	Studded tires are allowed, but only on snow & ice covered roads, max. speed 96/112 km/h (national road/motorway).
Italy 	No general winter tire regulations. Exceptions are indicated by traffic signs.	An anti-skid device (e.g. snow chains) must be carried in the vehicle.	Winter regulation prot. RU/1580 applies only to the following vehicles categories: M1, N1 and O1. In the event of snow the local police may impose a transit prohibition on some highway sections.
Kosovo 	No general winter regulations.	Snow chains for the drive axle must be carried in the vehicle. Use according to traffic signs and conditions.	Studded tires prohibited. Buses and trucks must carry a snow shovel.
Latvia 	Winter tires (M+S) compulsory for vehicles < 3.5 t GVW from 1 December to 1 March. Minimum 4 mm tread depth. Heavier vehicles do not require winter tires, but a minimum tread depth of 3 mm is mandatory.	Snow chains only allowed on roads covered with snow and ice.	Studded tires allowed between 1 October and 30 April for vehicles > 3.5 t GVW.
Liechtenstein 	No general winter tire regulations. However, there are liability issues if unsuitable tires are used. The vehicle equipment must be suitable for the weather conditions.	Snow chains allowed. Not necessary in valleys. In the mountains, traffic signs indicate if snow chains are compulsory.	Vehicles > 7.5 t GVW: Studded tires allowed from 1 November to 30 April, max. speed 80 km/h. All tires should be equipped with studded tires. Vehicles with studded tires have to be labelled with a sticker.
Lithuania 	Winter tires compulsory for vehicles < 3.5 t GVW from 1 November to 1 April. Heavier vehicles do not require winter tires, but a minimum tread depth of 1.6 mm is mandatory.	Snow chains only allowed on roads covered with snow and ice.	Studded tires allowed between 1 November and 1 April.
Luxembourg 	All drive axles on trucks and buses need to be equipped with winter tires (M+S suffices) during winter conditions (snow, ice, glazed frost).	Snow chains only allowed on roads covered with snow and ice.	Studded tires prohibited.
Macedonia 	No general winter tire regulations.	Snow chains must be carried in the vehicle from 15 October to 15 March if the vehicle has only standard tires fitted.	Coaches and heavy trucks must carry snow shovels. Studded tires prohibited.
Montenegro 	Tires marked with the M+S symbol or winter tires compulsory from November to April on specific roads, specified by Ministry of Police. Min. 4 mm tread depth.	Snow chains for the drive axle must be carried in the vehicle. Use according to traffic signs and conditions.	Studded tires prohibited. Buses and trucks must carry a snow shovel.
Netherlands 	No general winter tire regulations.	Snow chains not allowed on public roads.	Studded tires prohibited.





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Norway 	<p>Vehicles > 3.5 t GVW min. 5 mm tread depth compulsory between 1 November and including first Monday after Easter (South Norway) and between 16 October and including 30 April (North Norway). Mandatory use of winter tyres (3PMSF tyres on drive axle and front steer axle, M+S or 3PMSF tyres on all other axles) from 15 November to 31 March.</p>	<p>It is mandatory for vehicles > 3.5 t GVW to carry snow chains in the period when it is legal to use studs. A truck with trailer must carry 7 chains.</p>	<p>Studded tires (average protrusion: 1.7 mm) allowed from 1 November to the first Sunday after Easter. In Nordland, Troms and Finnmark: from 16 October to 30 April. Trucks and trailers: studded tires on the same axle. If twin-mounted, one tire is sufficient. Studded Tires can be used only on tires with M+S or 3PMSF.</p>
Poland 	<p>No general winter tire regulations.</p>	<p>Snow chains only allowed on roads covered with snow and ice. Adequate traffic signs on roads where snow chains are compulsory.</p>	<p>Studded tires prohibited.</p>
Portugal 	<p>No general winter tire regulations.</p>	<p>Snow chains temporarily compulsory when indicated by traffic signs (high-altitude regions only).</p>	<p>Studded tires prohibited.</p>
Romania 	<p>In case of wintry road conditions M+S or winter tires are compulsory for the drive axle of all vehicles > 3.5 t GVW and vehicles transporting people (with more than 9 seats).</p>	<p>Vehicles > 3.5 t GVW have to be equipped with snow chains which need to be mounted when indicated by respective traffic signs.</p>	<p>Shovel and sand required for vehicles > 3.5 t GVW. Studded tires prohibited.</p>
Russia 	<p>New Technical Regulation expected. In December, January and February, passenger light truck, trucks and buses must be equipped on all axles with tires marked M+S or with the 3PMSF-Symbol (Three-Peak Mountain Snowflake symbol) Minimum tread depth: 4 mm.</p>	<p>Snow chains are recommended but not compulsory.</p>	<p>Use of studded tires is forbidden in the summer months (June, July, August).</p>
Serbia 	<p>Tires marked with M+S symbol or winter tires compulsory from November to April. Min. 4 mm tread depth. Use according to traffic signs and conditions.</p>	<p>Snow chains for drive axle must be carried in the vehicle. Use according to traffic signs and conditions.</p>	<p>Studded tires prohibited. Buses and trucks must carry a snow shovel.</p>
Slovakia 	<p>Winter/M+S tires compulsory for trucks > 3.5 t GVW from 15 November to 31 March on the drive axle (min. 3 mm tread depth).</p>	<p>Snow chains must be carried in the vehicle. Use according to traffic signs and conditions.</p>	<p>Studded tires prohibited.</p>
Slovenia 	<p>From 15 November to 15 March there are two options that are mandatory on vehicles > 3.5 t GVW: Option 1: winter tires at least on the drive axle (min. 3 mm tread depth) Option 2: standard tires, but chains must be carried in the vehicle to be mounted on the drive axle in case of winter conditions.</p>	<p>Snow chains must be carried in vehicles > 3.5 t GVW if no winter tires are fitted.</p>	<p>Studded tires prohibited.</p>
Spain 	<p>High mountain roads with red level (15/TV-87): Buses can drive with tires marked with the 3PMSF symbol (Three-Peak Mountain Snowflake symbol) in all positions and minimum tread depth 4 mm. Rigid trucks between 3.5 t and 7.5 t GVW only for garbage collection, food distribution, transport of fluxes and assistance vehicles can drive with winter tires in all positions and minimum tread depth 4 mm. Other trucks not allowed to drive.</p>	<p>High mountain roads with red level (15/TV-87): Snow chains in rigid trucks between 3.5 t and 7.5 t GVW and buses, if no winter tires are fitted.</p>	<p>Usage of studded tires with up to 2 mm studs are allowed on snow-covered roads.</p>

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Sweden 	<p>In winter conditions, minimum tread depth is 5 mm on all tires except trailer tires. When winter weather prevails, from 1 December to 31 March, vehicles GVW \leq 3.5 t must be equipped with 3PMSF or studded tires.</p> <p>Vehicles > 3.5 t GVW must be equipped with 3PMSF, POR or studded tires on front and drive axles, on other axles M+S tires are also allowed. Until 30 November 2024 it is allowed to use M+S (specially developed for winter) on all axles. On trailers \leq 3.5 t GVW, M+S tires (specially developed for winter) are allowed until 30 November 2028.</p>	<p>Snow chains recommended to be carried in the vehicle.</p>	<p>Studded tires are allowed from 1 October to 15 April. Depending on the weather conditions this period may be extended.</p> <p>Maximum of 50 studs per meter circumference in tires produced after 1 July 2013. Please note exceptions on specific roads.</p>
Switzerland 	<p>No general winter tire regulations, regional regulations are possible in wintry road conditions (e.g. alpine passes). In case of an accident with summer tires in wintry conditions, be aware of liability issues. Only 3PMSF tires are considered as suitable tires for wintry conditions. Minimum tread depth for winter tires 1.6 mm, 4 mm is the recommended tread depth.</p>	<p>If authorities announce mandatory snow chains, only snow chains are permitted. Use of snow chains in case of respective road signs and conditions (four-wheel drive vehicles may be excluded).</p>	<p>Studded tires are allowed for vehicles < 7.5 t GVW between 1 November and 30 April on snow-covered roads. Max. speed 80 km/h. Studded tires have to be labeled with a sticker 80 km/h.</p>
Turkey 	<p>It is obligatory to use winter tires for 4 months between 1 December and 1 April. Local governors decide whether to enforce winter tire regulation and make necessary announcements according to average local temperatures. It is obligatory to fit winter tires on drive axles of trucks, tractors and buses, and on all axles of light trucks, vans and taxis. Any tire to be replaced on the road has to be replaced with a winter tire. Within the obligatory period, winter tires should bear Mud+Snow (M+S) symbol or snowflake (3PMSF) symbol or both on the sidewall. The tread depth and pattern of retreaded tires should correspond to winter tires even if they bear (M+S) symbol on the shoulder. Winter tires should have a tread depth of min. 4 mm for trucks, tractors and buses and 1.6 mm for light trucks, vans and cars.</p>	<p>Having or using a tire chain with the vehicle does not absolve drivers from their obligation to use winter tires.</p>	<p>Only studded tires that can be used on ice can substitute winter tires. The tread depth should be measured from the tread center.</p>
Ukraine 	<p>No general winter tire regulations.</p>	<p>Snow chains only allowed on roads covered with snow and ice.</p>	<p>Studded tires are allowed.</p>

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We are currently not aware of general winter tire rules / snow chain regulations for trucks in the following countries: Cyprus, Greece and Malta. Please consult the traffic regulations in the respective countries for special snow chain and studded tire rules.

Despite careful research, we cannot guarantee that the information is correct and complete.

M+S

Tires marked with M+S (Mud+Snow) provide a tread pattern or structure that is designed to deliver performance that exceeds that of a standard tire in snowy conditions. The M+S label is not subject to a defined test procedure.



Three-Peak Mountain Snowflake (3PMSF) tires deliver winter performance that is legally certified. These tires have to pass a test on a snow-covered road and have at least 25% better traction than a standard reference tire.



Winter tires from Continental are marked with the snowflake symbol on the tire wall. Not only do Continental winter tires easily outperform M+S tires, they also significantly exceed the requirements of the “Three-Peak Mountain Snowflake” symbol (3PMSF). The development of winter tires from Continental is based on many years of experience and practical knowledge gained from using the tires in the low temperatures found in Scandinavian countries. These special winter tires offer a distinct advantage for a safe journey on snow-covered or icy roads.

For optimum traction and high driving safety in colder weather, Continental recommends fitting winter tires on all axles of your trucks and buses.

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