

Winter Driving Requirements and Information

The information contained within this document comes from the Colorado Revised Statutes 42-4-106, 42-4-235 and the Code of Colorado Regulations 601-14. It applies to all Interstate, Federal and State Highways in Colorado.

What are the requirements for large vehicles traveling along the I-70 mountain corridor?

All motor vehicles with a GCWR/GVWR of 16,001 pounds or more are required to carry tire chains from September 1st through May 31st when traveling on any portion of I-70 between mile point 259 (Morrison) and mile point 133 (Dotsero). The vehicle must be equipped with enough chains or alternate traction devices (ATDs) to be able to comply with the Commercial Vehicle Chain Law if it is put into effect.

This requirement applies to any commercial or private vehicles with a GVWR/GCWR of 16,001 pounds or more (i.e. recreational vehicles, smaller box trucks).

What are the requirements for smaller vehicles traveling along the I-70 mountain corridor?

All two-wheel drive motor vehicles with a GCWR/GVWR less than 16,001 pounds traveling on any portion of I-70 between mile point 259 (Morrison) and mile point 133 (Dotsero) from September 1st through May 31st must have:

- Tire chains for two or more drive tires; OR
- An approved ATD for two or more drive tires; OR
- Tires with a tread depth of at least 3/16-inch and which are rated for either "All weather" or "Mud and Snow" (indicated by a "All Season", M+S, M/S, etc. on sidewall) by the manufacturer.



All four-wheel drive motor vehicles with a GCWR/GVWR that is less than 16,001 pounds traveling on any portion of I-70 between mile point 259 (Morrison) and mile point 133 (Dotsero) from September 1st through May 31st must have tires with a tread depth of at least 3/16-inch and are adequate for winter driving conditions.

How will the requirements be enforced?

Law enforcement will set up designated chain inspection sites in various locations and times to check vehicles for compliance. Compliance may also be checked during routine contacts with vehicles within the locations and time frames described above. Drivers of vehicles that do not have the required equipment may be issued a citation with associated fines.

Do the chain and traction device carry requirements apply on all mountain highways?

The law described above, which requires chains to be carried and/or winter rated tires on vehicles, only applies during the times and locations also described above. However, CDOT may put the Passenger Traction Law, the Passenger Chain Law or the Commercial Motor Vehicle Chain Law into effect on any interstate, federal or state highway in Colorado at any time. Drivers must ensure their vehicle is in compliance with all applicable laws at the time and location when they are driving and should be prepared for seasonal driving conditions.

Should I not worry about my tire condition if I have chains or ATDs for my vehicle?

For the purposes of compliance with the Passenger Traction Law, the vehicle's tire tread can be less than 3/16-inch if you have adequate chains or ATDs. However, the tires will still need to meet the statutory minimum tread requirements of 2/32-inch for all tires on a vehicle.



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