



Statens vegvesen
Norwegian Public Roads
Administration

New winter tyre requirements for heavy vehicles

As of 1 January 2015, new requirements for winter tyres come into effect for vehicles with a maximum permitted weight of more than 3 500 kg.

Winter tyres

- Beginning 1 January 2015 and up to and including 31 March 2015 winter tyres are required on all axles, **including lift axles/retractable axles**, on motor vehicles and their trailers, which each have a maximum permitted weight of more than 3500 kg. The requirement applies to the following groups M1-M3, N2-N3 and O3-O4.
- For those cases where winter tyres are not available, transitional schemes for the winter season 2014/2015 will be established.
- Beginning with the next winter season (2015/2016), the requirement will be in force from 15 November up to and including 31 March.
- Winter tyres can be either studded tyres or so-called friction tyres (non-studded). They must be specially labelled M+S, MS, M&S, M-S, “mud and snow”, 3PMSF or “3 peak mountain snowflake” and be specially suitable for winter driving.

Notice! The current requirement for winter tyres on motor vehicles, with the exception of lift axles/retractable axles, is in force beginning 15 November 2014 and up until the new rules go into effect on 1 January 2015. As of the 2013/2014 winter season, the following stricter requirements for tyres came into effect and remain applicable:


Tread depth

For vehicles with a total permitted weight of more than 3 500 kg (both motor vehicle and trailer), beginning 16 October in Nordland, Troms and Finnmark, and beginning on the 1 November in the rest of Norway, tyres are required to have at least **5 mm tread design depth**. This requirement is in force up to and including 30 April in Nordland, Troms and Finnmark and up to and including the first Monday after Easter Monday in the rest of Norway. Outside this period, the requirement is a tread design depth of at least 1.6 mm.

Rules for studded tyres and snow chains

Snow chains

If you are driving a vehicle with a total permitted weight of more than 3 500 kg, you must have chains with you if you expect to be driving on snowy/icy roads. During the period when 5 mm tread depth is required, you must bring along snow chains, whatever the road conditions.

The chains must be dimensioned to the vehicle's wheels and must provide continuous contact between the chain and the road surface. They must be made of metal/steel, be suitable for the prevailing road conditions and be stress-resistant. 



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Motor vehicles with a total permitted weight of more than 3 500 kg must have at least three chains

- One dimensioned to fit the motor vehicle's front wheel
- Two dimensioned to fit the driving wheels of the motor vehicle

A vehicle combination (motor vehicle plus trailer, where both vehicles have a total permitted weight of more than 3 500 kg) must have at least seven chains if the motor vehicle has dual wheels on the drive axle

- One dimensioned to fit the tractor unit's front wheels
- Four dimensioned to fit the tractor unit's driving wheels
- Two dimensioned to fit the trailer's wheels

If the motor vehicle in a vehicle combination has single wheels on the drive axle, or double chains are used, at least five chains must be brought along. Double chains are chains that are mounted on both wheels of a dual wheel assembly.

- Two dimensioned to fit the vehicle's driving wheels

Automatic tire chains: In motor vehicles that are equipped with automatically operated chain slings for the driving wheels, this replaced two chains in those cases where the motor vehicle has twin wheels on the drive axle.

Studded tyres

- Studded tyres are permitted only during the period when it is required to use tyres with a 5 mm tread depth, unless road conditions necessitate their use for a longer period of time.
- If a motor vehicle with a total permitted weight of more than 3 500 kg is equipped with studded tyres, it must have studded tyres on all wheels mounted on the same axle. For dual wheel assemblies, it is sufficient to mount studded tyres on one of the tandem wheels.

IMPORTANT!

The vehicle must have winter tyres (studded or non-studded), chains or the equivalent **outside** the periods mentioned above **if** this is necessary to ensure sufficient road grip when road conditions are taken into account. If snow or sheets of ice can be expected on the roads, chains must be brought along, whatever the time of year.

Penalties

The fine for driving with sub-minimum tread depth and/or without winter tyres when they are required is NOK 750 per tyre. Vehicle use restrictions and notice of intended prosecution may be applied in cases of serious violations. For driving a vehicle illegally with studded tyres or chains, or if chains are not brought along, a fine of NOK 1000 can be imposed.

For further information, see our website: www.vegvesen.no/vinterdekk
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