





# COLORADO CHAIN LAW FACT SHEET\*

## COLORADO TRACTION AND CHAIN LAW TIRE REQUIREMENTS

Sequence of Code Implementation 




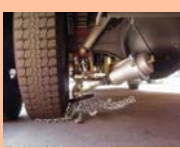
	No Codes	Code 15	Code 15 + Code 17	Code 15 + Code 18	Code 16 + Code 18	Road Closed
<b>Typical Road Conditions</b>	Dry or Wet; Warm, Cool, or Cold	Frozen Precipitation Collecting on Road	Partially Snow Covered	Snow Covered, Icy	Deep Snow and Ice	Unsafe
<b>Single-Drive-Axle Commercial Vehicles</b> 	Safe Tire Tread – Adequate Tread Depth	Adequate traction for conditions	Chains or ATDs	Chains or ATDs	Chains or ATDs	Closed
<b>Double-Drive-Axle Commercial Vehicles</b> 	Safe Tire Tread – Adequate Tread Depth	Adequate traction for conditions	Adequate traction for conditions	Chains or ATDs	Chains or ATDs	Closed
<b>2WD Passenger Vehicles</b> 	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
<b>4WD or AWD Passenger Vehicles</b> 	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

### 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.