

Amendments to the Regulation concerning Use of Motor Vehicles

Laid down by the Directorate of Public Roads with legal authority in the Road Traffic Act of June 18th 1965 no. 4 Sections 4, 13, 15, 16 and 36, jf. kgl.res. av 21. mars 1986 nr. 750, cf. Delegation Decision from the Ministry of Transport and Communications of November 24th 1980, Delegation Decision of April 1st 1993 and Delegation Decision of April 30th 2002.

In Regulation 25th of January 1990 no. 92 concerning Use of Vehicles the following changes are suggested (changes are in italic):

§ 1-4. Wheels

1. The following applies to motor vehicles which have wheels and are constructed for a speed of 30 km/t or more:

a) tyres on automobiles, motorcycles, tractors, motorised equipment, trailers or trailing equipment must have a tread depth of at least 1.6 mm.

From 1 November until the first Monday after Easter Monday tyres on vehicles mentioned in the first paragraph must have a tread depth of at least 3 mm. *In the corresponding period tyres on vehicles with a permitted total weight of more than 3500 kg must have a tread depth of at least 5 mm.* In Nordland, Troms and Finnmark the tread depth requirements apply from 16 October until 30 April.

The tread depth is measured in the broad grooves in the central part of the tread surface about three-quarters of the width and all around the tyre, except from where tread wear indicators are placed.

b) Wheels on the same axle must have tyres with approximately the same characteristics.

c) The wheels must have a sufficient static and dynamic balance.

2. No vehicle must be used unless it has sufficient road-grip in relation to the weather conditions, if necessary by using winter tyres with or without studs, snow-chains or similar traction devices. Winter tyres are specially marked with M+S, MS, M&S, M-S, «*Mud and snow*», *3PMSF* or “*3 peak mountain snowflake*” and are designed specifically for winter driving. Only winter tyres are permitted to be used with studs, except tyres for motorcycles.

Motor vehicles with a permitted total weight of more than 3500 kg, must use winter tyres on all axles, except from on the retractable axle, while driving on public roads from 15 November until 31 March.

Vehicles older than 30 years which are not used in commercial transportation, vehicles used in construction work and to and from construction sites, and vehicles that mainly drive in terrain in service of the Norwegian Armed Forces, are exempted from the requirement set in the second paragraph.

A vehicle with a permitted total weight of more than 3500 kg, if it is expected that the vehicle may be driven on a public road covered in snow or ice, and always during the period from 1

November until the Monday after Easter Monday, must carry snow-chains adapted to the wheels of the vehicle in such a way that there is always contact between the snow-chain and the road surface. The snow-chains must be made of metal/steel, be suitable for the weather conditions and stand the strain they will be exposed to when driving in winter conditions. In Nordland, Troms and Finnmark the corresponding period is from 16 October until 30 April.

The number of snow-chains to be carried in the vehicle according to the *fourth paragraph*:

a) A motor vehicle with a permitted total weight of more than 3500 kg must carry at least three snow-chains, of which one must fit the front wheel of the motor vehicle and two must fit the driving wheels.

b) A road train consisting of a motor vehicle and a trailer where both vehicles have a permitted total weight of more than 3500 kg, must carry at least seven snow-chains if the motor vehicle has twin wheels on the drive axle. One snow chain must fit to the front wheels of the vehicle, four snow-chains must be adapted to the motor vehicle's driving wheels, and two must fit the wheels of the trailer. If the motor vehicle has single wheels on the drive axle, or a double snow-chain is used, five snow-chains are sufficient, of which two must fit the motor vehicle's driven wheels.

c) "On spot" automatic tyre chains will replace two snow-chains if the motor vehicle has dual wheels on the drive axle.

3. Studded tyres or snow-chains must not be used during the period from the first Monday after Easter Monday until 31 October unless the weather conditions make this necessary. In Nordland, Troms and Finnmark the corresponding period is from 1 May until 15 October.