

Information from Continental about European regulations for winter equipment on trucks and busses. Issue: Winter 2012



Country	Tire regulations	Snow chain regulations	Further information
Austria 	Winter tires compulsory from Nov. 1 to April 15. Risk of driving ban and heavy fines if you do not comply. (35 up to 5,000 €). Trucks above 3.5t must have M+S tires on at least one drive axle with a minimum tread depth of 6mm (bias) and 5mm (radial). Winter tires are compulsory on buses from November 1 to March 15.	Snow chains must be carried for at least one drive axle from November 1 to April 15. Exceptions for public service buses apply. Use on roads covered with snow and ice.	Studded tires are not permitted for vehicles above 3.5 tons.
Belgium 	No general winter tire regulations.	Snow chains only allowed when roads covered with snow and ice.	Studded tires are not permitted for vehicles above 3.5 tons.
Bosnia-Herzegovina 	No general winter tire regulations.	Snow chains must be carried in vehicle from November 15 to April 15. Use on snow-covered roads. Fitting: at least 1 pair on drive axle.	Snow shovel must be carried in vehicle. Studded tires prohibited.
Bulgaria 	No general winter tire regulations.	Snow chains must be carried in vehicle from November 1 to March 31. Usage compulsory on mountain passes when indicated by traffic signs.	Entry into country may be refused or driving ban possible without adequate winter equipment.
Croatia 	No general winter tire rules, but special regulations possible: then tires with M+S marking and at least 4mm tread depth are required.	Snow chains required for drive axle in certain conditions. Snow chains compulsory in Lika/Gorski Kotar region.	Studded tires prohibited. Commercially used vehicles must carry a snow shovel.
Czech Republic 	Winter tires compulsory between November 1 and March 31 depending on situation in wintry conditions or in case of sign „Winter kit”. M+S tires are compulsory on the drive axle of vehicles above 3.5t with min. 6mm tread depth.	Differing traffic signs possible. In case of sign „Snow chain”, snow chains are compulsory on at least 2 drive wheels of vehicles with 3 and more axles.	Studded tires prohibited.
Denmark 	No general winter tire regulations.	Snow chains allowed from November 1 to April 15, max speed 80/110km/h (national road, motorway).	Studded tires permitted from Nov. 1 to April 15, max speed 80/110km/h (national road, motorway). Studded tires should be mounted on all tires during this period.
Estonia 	Winter tires compulsory (radial tires with at least 3mm tread depth) from December 1 to March 1 (also from October to April depending on weather)	Snow chains only allowed on roads covered with snow and ice.	Studded tires are not permitted for vehicles above 3.5 tons.
Finland 	Vehicles above 3.5t minimum tread depth for tires 1.6mm.	Snow chains are only allowed when road covered with snow and ice.	Studded tires permitted from November 1st to first Monday after Easter. Depending on the atmospheric conditions this period may be extended. Max. speed 80km/h for vehicles above 3.5t. Allowed are: Average saliency max. 1.5mm and max. 150 studs per tire.





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France 	No general winter tire regulations. Exceptions are indicated by traffic signs.	Use of snow chains when indicated by traffic signs.	Studded tires are not permitted for vehicles above 3.5 tons.
Germany 	Situational winter equipment requirement: Vehicles up to 3.5t GVW must be equipped with winter/M+S tires on all wheels. Vehicles above 3.5t GVW or with more than 8 passenger seats must be equipped with winter/M+S-tires on the drive axles.	Snow chains when indicated by traffic signs. Studded tires prohibited. Exception for studded tires: Route via „Kleines deutsches Eck“.	40€ fine for unsuitable tires. 80€ fine for causing obstruction of traffic due to unsuitable tires.
Great Britain 	No general winter tire regulations.	Snow chains permitted on roads covered with snow and ice.	Studded tires allowed as long the street surface doesn't get damaged. Otherwise a regress is possible.
Hungary 	No general winter tire regulations.	Snow chains allowed on roads covered with snow and ice. The application and entrainment of snow chains may be mandatory due to special weather conditions (max speed 50km/h). In wintry conditions the entry may be rejected for foreign vehicles if no snow chains are carried on board.	Studded tires prohibited.
Ireland 	No general winter tire regulations.	Snow chains allowed.	Studded tires are permitted, max speed 96/112km/h (national road, motorway).
Italy 	No general winter tire regulations.	An anti-skid device (e.g. snow chains) must be carried in vehicle. Winter tires or approved snow chains (max speed 50km/h) are mandatory when indicated by traffic signs.	
Latvia 	Winter tires (M+S) compulsory for vehicles up to 3.5t from December 1 to March 1. Tread depth at least 3mm.	Snow chains allowed on roads covered with snow and ice.	Studded tires permitted between October 1 and April 30 (vehicles up to 3.5t).
Liechtenstein 	No general winter tire regulation. However, there are liability issues if non-adequate tires are used. Vehicle equipment must match weather conditions.	Snow chains permitted. Not necessary in valleys. In the mountains, traffic signs indicate if snow chains are compulsory.	Vehicles up to 3.5t: Studded tires permitted from November 15 to April 15, max speed 80km/h. All tires should be equipped with studded tires. Vehicles with studded tires have to be labeled with a sticker. Not allowed on express and motorway.
Lithuania 	Vehicles up to 3.5t: winter tires compulsory between November 1 and April 1.	Snow chains only permitted on roads covered with snow and ice.	Studded tires permitted between November 1 and April 1.
Luxembourg 	No general winter tire regulations.	Snow chains allowed on roads covered with snow and ice.	Studded tires allowed for buses, coaches, trucks up to 3,5t from December 1 to March 31, max speed 60/90km/h (motorway and other roads). The usage of the tires may start earlier or may be extended according to weather conditions. All tires should be equipped with studded tires. Vehicles with studded tires have to be labeled with a sticker.
Macedonia 	Winter tires compulsory on drive axle from November 15 to March 15. Minimum tread depth 5mm.	Must be carried in vehicle from October 15 to March 15.	Coaches and heavy trucks must carry snow shovels. Studded tires prohibited.

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Montenegro 	No general winter tire regulations.	Snow chains allowed on roads covered with snow and ice.	Studded tires prohibited.
Netherlands 	No general winter tire regulations.	Snow chains allowed on roads covered with snow and ice.	Studded tires prohibited.
Norway 	<p>3mm tread depth mandatory between November 1 and, including, first Monday after Easter (South Norway) and between October 16 and, including, April 30 (North Norway).</p> <p>In winter conditions, M+S marked tires especially made for winter are mandatory in all positions. Alternatively, use of snow chains in combination with tires with a min. tread depth of 3mm permitted.</p> <p>Stud protrusion average 1.7mm</p> <p>In winter conditions, M+S marked tires especially made for winter are mandatory in all positions. Alternatively, use of snow chains in combination with tires with a min. tread depth of 3mm permitted.</p> <p>Stud protrusion average 1,7mm</p>	<p>Vehicles > 3.5t must be equipped with snow-chains in the period when it is legal to use studs. A truck with trailer must bring 7 chains.</p>	<p>Studded tires permitted between November 1 and the first Sunday after Easter. In „Nordland, Troms and Finnmark“ from October 16 to April 30. Trucks: studded tires on the same axle. Trailer: if studs, studs on all tires. In Trondheim and Oslo a fee is charged for the usage of studded tires: daily tickets may be acquired at vending machines along the arterial roads or by telephone or SMS (send from a Norwegian, Swedish oder Danish telephone number). Monthly and annual tickets for Trondheim may be acquired at Trondheim City Parking Office in Erling, Skakkes Gate 40, 7012 Trondheim. Daily tickets cost about 3.90 Euro, monthly tickets about 52 Euro und annual tickets about 155 Euro (Costs double for vehicles above 3.5t GVW). A Violation is fined with 97 Euro.</p>
Poland 	No general winter tire regulations.	Snow chains may only be used on roads covered with snow and ice. Adequate traffic signs on roads where snow chains are compulsory.	Studded tires prohibited.
Portugal 	No general winter tire regulations.	Snow chains temporarily mandatory when indicated by traffic signs (only happens in highest areas).	Studded tires prohibited.
Romania 	Starting 01.11.2011, in case of wintry road conditions (snow, ice, mud), M+S or winter tires are mandatory for the driving axle of all vehicles > 3.5 tons and vehicles transporting people (with more than 9 seats).	Vehicles >3.5 tons to be equipped with snow chains to be mounted where indicated with respective traffic signs.	Shovel and sand required for vehicles > 3.5 tons. Studded tires prohibited.
Serbia 	Depending on the situation, vehicles must be equipped either with winter tires (min. 4mm tread depth) or with at least 4 radial tires and snow chains.	Snow chains should be carried in the vehicle if no winter tires mounted.	Studded tires prohibited. Buses and trucks must carry a snow shovel.
Slovakia 	On roads with compact snow coverage winter tires (M+S tires) compulsory for trucks above 3.5t GVW between November 15 and March 31 on at least one drive axle (min. tread depth 3mm).	Must be carried in vehicle. Use according to traffic signs and conditions.	Studded tires prohibited.
Slovenia 	At least on the drive axle (min. 6mm tread depth) of vehicles above 3.5t from November 15 to March 15.	Must be carried in vehicles up to 3.5t GVW. At least for drive axle from November 15 to March 15 and in wintry road conditions.	Studded tires prohibited.
Spain 	No general winter tire regulation. Winter tires (M+S) mandatory when indicated by traffic signs or the authorities.	Snow chains permitted when indicated by traffic signs or the authorities. Snow chains only permitted on roads covered with snow and ice.	Usage of studded tires with up to 2mm studs are allowed on snow-covered roads.

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Sweden 	In winter conditions 5mm tread depth mandatory for trucks above 3.5t between December 1 and March 31.	Recommended.	Studded tires are allowed between October 1. and April 15. Depending on the atmospheric conditions this period may be extended. Maximum of 150 Studs per tire. Please consider exceptions concerning specific roads.
Switzerland 	No general winter tire regulations, only if winter condition. Min tread depth for winter tires 1.6mm. In case of an accident with summer tires in wintery conditions, be aware of liability issues.	If authorities announce snow chain obligation, only snow chains are permitted (also applies to four wheel drive vehicles). Use of snow chains in case of respective road signs and conditions.	Studded tires are permitted for vehicles under 7.5t between November 1 and April 30. Max. speed 80km/h on snowcovered roads. Studded tires have to be labeled with a sticker 80km/h.
Turkey 	No general winter tire regulations	Snow chains recommended to be carried in the vehicle and to be used on roads covered with snow and ice.	Tow rope and chock should be carried in the vehicle.
Ukraine 	No general winter tire regulations	Snow chains are allowed.	Studded tires are allowed.

We are currently not aware of general winter tire rules / snow chain regulations for trucks in the following countries: Albania, Cyprus, Greece, Malta and Russia. 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.

