

## Approved Alternative Traction Devices (ATDs)

Approved ATDs may be used instead of chains. These include:

- **Wheel Sanders**, which must carry enough sand to negotiate the hill
- **Pneumatically Driven Chains** which spin under the drive wheels automatically as traction is lost

Colorado's rules and regulations do not allow the use of tire cables on commercial vehicles.

**Following are the only two approved situations in which cables can be used:**

- 1) Tire cables constructed with high strength steel spring cross member rollers that are at least 0.415" in diameter or greater. These can be used instead of chains on commercial vehicles with the exception of single drive axle combination units.
- 2) On a tandem power drive axle commercial vehicle, any type of cable can be used only if there are chains on the two outside tires of one of the power drive axles and cables on two or more tires of the other power drive axles.

*The Colorado Department of Transportation may rescind the approval of cables as an ATD at any time.*

## Chain-Up Questions

**Do I need to chain up my trailer?** Chains are not required on trailers. You may use tire cables on trailer tires.

**Where can I chain up?** Vehicles placarded for flammable, combustible, or explosives loads may pass the chain-up signs and install their chains where pavement is covered by snow or ice, at a safe location outside the traveled portion of the highway.

**When can I continue with my load?** CDOT or law enforcement personnel may control the re-entry of vehicles from chain inspection stations to assist traffic flow and ensure safety.

**When can I take my chains off?** The chain law will cease where designated by an official sign or where bare descending pavement is encountered.

## I-70 Chain-Up Stations

**Eastbound:** Mileposts 178, 183, 184, 187, 203, 211

**Westbound:** Mileposts 229, 221, 219, 197.

Colorado's weather can change dramatically and quickly. Carry chains and be prepared. For road conditions, call **(303) 639-1111** in the Denver area, or call **1-877-315-Road** from elsewhere in Colorado. To report a suspected drunk driver call **\*DUI** on your cell phone and for aggressive driving **\*CSP**.

# CHAIN UP TIPS

## A Guide to Colorado's Chain Law for Commercial Vehicles



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## Chain Law Rules for Commercial Vehicles

Colorado's chain law rules became effective Nov. 1, 1996.

The chain law applies to every state, federal, and interstate highway in Colorado.

When the chain law is in effect, drivers will be notified by signs along the roadways indicating which vehicles should chain up, and where. In some areas, lighted message signs will alert drivers to chain up information.

Metal chains must consist of two circular metal loops, one on each side of the tire, connected by not less than nine evenly spaced chains across the tire tread.

Commercial vehicles having four or more drive wheels must chain four wheels. Dual tire chains are acceptable.

## Violation Policies

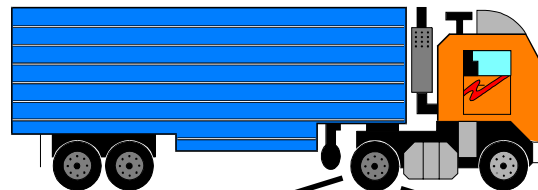
Drivers of commercial vehicles who ignore the chain law can be fined \$100 plus a \$13 surcharge for not chaining up when required. A driver can also be fined \$500 plus a \$61 surcharge if the vehicle is not chained when required and as a result blocks the road.

## When Are Chains Required?

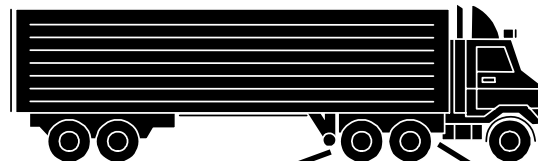
The chain law affects **commercial vehicles**. A vehicle is defined as "commercial" if it is used in commerce to transport passengers or property and it also:

- 1) Has a gross combination weight rating of 26,001 lbs. or more inclusive of a towed unit which has a gross vehicle weight rating of more than 10,000 lbs., or
- 2) Has a gross vehicle weight rating of 26,001 or more pounds; or
- 3) Is designed to transport 16 or more passengers, including the driver.

*The illustrations below show what is meant by the terms single drive axle, and tandem drive axle.*



**Single Drive Axle**



**Tandem Drive Axles**

## Levels of the Chain Law

**LEVEL 1** - This level requires that all single drive axle combination commercial vehicles must chain up. All four wheels of the power drive axle must be chained. Cables are not allowed on single-drive axle combination commercial vehicles as ATDs.

When Code 17 is in effect, all other commercial vehicles must have snow tires or chains. Code 17 may be implemented any time there is snow covering any part of the traveled portion of pavement on an ascending grade.

**LEVEL 2** - This level requires chains for all commercial vehicles, including all trucks exceeding 26,001 lbs. in weight, and buses or vehicles designed to carry 16 or more passengers.

Auto transports must comply to the extent possible without causing damage to hydraulic lines. Buses need to chain only two drive wheel tires to comply.

Code 18 may be implemented any time there is snow covering the entire traveled portion of the pavement on an ascending grade, or when road, weather, or driving conditions make this restriction necessary to protect the safety of the traveling public and to minimize road closures.