



Statens vegvesen

# New rules for tyres on heavy vehicles!

As of the 2013/2014 winter season, stricter requirements come into effect for vehicles with a maximum total weight of more than 3 500 kg.

## Winter tyres

- For vehicles with a total permitted weight of more than 3 500 kg, **winter tyres are obligatory** during the period from 15 November to 31 March. This requirement does not apply to lift axles.
- Winter tyres can be either studded tyres or so-called friction tyres (non-studded). These must be specially labelled M+S, MS, M&S, «mud and snow», 3PMSF or «3 peak mountain snowflake» and must be specially designed for winter driving.

## Tread design depth

- For vehicles with a total permitted weight of more than 3 500 kg (both towing vehicle and trailer), tyres are required to have **at least 5 mm tread design depth** from 15 October in Nordland, Troms and Finnmark, and from 1 November in the rest of Norway. 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.

## Penalties

- The fine for driving with sub-minimum tread depth is NOK 750 per tyre. A similar fine will also be levied for driving without winter tyres. Vehicle use restrictions and notice of intended prosecution may be applied in cases of serious violations.



# Rules for studded tyres and snow chains

## Snow chains

If you are driving a vehicle with a total permitted weight of more than 3500 kg, you must have chains with you if you expect to be driving on snowy or icy roads. During the winter season, therefore, you must bring along snow chains, whatever the road conditions.

The chains must be dimensioned to the wheels of the vehicle and must maintain constant contact with the road surface. They must be made of metal/steel, be suitable under the current weather conditions and must be stress-resistant.

- A heavy tractor unit must have at least three chains
  - One dimensioned to fit the vehicle's front wheel
  - Two dimensioned to fit the driving wheels
- A vehicle combination must have at least seven chains if the vehicle has twin wheels on the drive axle
  - One dimensioned to fit the vehicle's front wheel
  - Four dimensioned to fit the vehicle's driving wheels
  - Two dimensioned to fit the trailer's wheels
- If the tractor unit has single wheels on the drive axle, or double chains are used, a vehicle combination must have five chains.
  - Two of these must be dimensioned to fit the vehicle's driving wheels

## Studded tyres

- Studded tyres and chains are permitted only during the winter months, unless road conditions require their use.
- Vehicles with a total permitted weight of more than 3500 kg must have studded tyres on all wheels mounted on the same axle.