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LEGISLATION ON WINTER TYRES IN THE MOST POPULAR WINTER SPORTS COUNTRIES

European legislation on winter tyres and snow chains is constantly changing. That is why the VACO Dutch industry association keeps an eye on everything. Are you going on winter sports? Check the rules below before you go on your way.

Do you have winter tyres produced in 2017 or earlier?

According to German law, a tyre produced in 2017 or earlier is a winter tyre, if it has an M+S coding ('mud and snow') on the side wall of the tyre.

Do you have winter tyres produced in 2018 or later? A winter or all-season tyre produced as from 1 January 2018 must have a snowflake symbol on its side wall to be legally classified as a winter tyre. Only M+S coding is not sufficient.

FRANCE

Legislation in France has changed. In the period as from 1 November to 31 March, winter tyres are required in various regions: in mountainous areas in the east and south of France, in the Vosges, a number of departments in central France and in Corsica. In these and other areas, winter tyres are required on a road where this is indicated with a sign.

AUSTRIA

Winter tyres are required from 1 November until 15 April in case of wintry conditions, such as (wet) snow and frost. Winter tyres must have a minimum profile of at least 4 mm.

SWITZERLAND

Winter tyres are required on roads where it is indicated by a sign and must have a minimum profile of at least 4 mm.

ITALY

Winter tyres are required on roads where it is indicated by a sign. This obligation applies in the period from 15 November to 15 April. In the Aosta Valley, winter tyres or snow chains required in the period from 15 October to 15 April.

GERMANY

In Germany, winter tyres are required in winter conditions, such as snow and frost. German legislation makes a difference between tyres produced before and after 1 January 2018.

Production period of a tyre.

You can read the production period of the tyre on the side wall. It is indicated by the "DOT code". It concerns the last four digits, which are used during the year and the week of production. Two examples: a tyre with DOT 1717 was produced in week 17 of year 2017. A tyre with DOT 0118 was produced in the first week of year 2018.

Do you have any questions? Ask your tyre specialist, he can help you.



PASSENGER CARS AND (LIGHT) COMMERCIAL VANS
(≤ 3.500 KG)

Legislation winter tyres in Europe

Country	Obligation	Period of time
Albania (AL)	Required locally.	-
Austria (AT)	Required in winter conditions.	1 November until 15 April
Belarus (BY)	Required.	1 December until 28 February
Belgium (BE)	Not required.	-
Bosnia and Herzegovina (BA)	Required.	15 November until 15 April
Bulgaria (BG)	Required.	15 November until 28 February
Croatia (HR)	Required.	15 November until 15 April
Czech Republic (CZ)	Required in winter conditions.	1 November until 31 March
Denmark (DK)	Not required, but recommended in winter conditions.	-
Germany (DE)	Required in winter conditions.	-
Estonia (EE)	Required.	1 December until 28 February
Finland (FI)	Required.	1 December until 28 February
France (FR)	Required in some areas.	11 November until 31 March
Greece (GR)	Not required.	-
Great-Britain (GB)	Not required.	-
Hungary (HU)	Not required.	-
Iceland (IS)	Not required.	-
Ireland (IE)	Not required.	-
Italy and San Marino (IT)	Required by sign.	15 November until 15 April
Latvia (LV)	Required.	1 December until 1 March
Lithuania (LT)	Required.	10 November until 31 March
Luxembourg (LU)	Required in winter conditions.	-
North-Macedonia (MK)	Required by sign and in winter conditions.	15 November until 15 March
Moldova (MD)	Required in winter conditions.	1 December until 1 March
Montenegro (ME)	Required in winter conditions.	15 November until 31 March
Norway (NO)	Not required, but recommended.	-
Poland (PL)	Not required, but recommended.	-
Portugal (PT)	Not required.	-
Romania (RO)	Required in winter conditions.	1 November until 31 March
Serbia (RS)	Required in winter conditions.	1 November until 31 March
Slovenia (SI)	Required in winter conditions.	15 November until 15 March
Slovakia (SK)	Required in winter conditions.	15 November until 31 March
Spain (ES)	Not required.	-
Sweden (SE)	Required in winter conditions.	1 December until 31 March
Switzerland (CH)	Required by sign.	-
The Netherlands (NL)	Not required.	-
Ukraine (UA)	Not required.	-

This overview is based on the data as known on 1 September 2019. For current and additional information, please visit bandveilig.nl


COMMERCIAL VANS
 (≥ 3.500 KG)

Legislation winter tyres in Europe

Country	Obligation	Period of time
Albania (AL)	Required locally.	-
Austria (AT)	Required for the driven axle(s).	1 November until 15 April
Belarus (BY)	Required for the driven axle(s) and trailers.	1 December until 28 February
Belgium (BE)	Not required.	-
Bosnia and Herzegovina (BA)	Required.	15 November until 15 April
Bulgaria (BG)	Required.	15 November until 28 February
Croatia (HR)	Required for at least one driven axle.	15 November until 15 April
Czech Republic (CZ)	Required for at least the driven axle(s) in winter conditions.	1 November until 31 March
Denmark (DK)	Not required, but recommended in the winter season.	-
Germany (DE)	Required for the driven axle(s) in winter conditions. Not required for trailers. Please note: per 1 July 2020 new regulation.	-
Estonia (EE)	Not required.	-
Finland (FI)	Required for the driven axle(s).	1 December until 28 February
France (FR)	Required in some areas.	1 November until 31 March
Greece (GR)	Not required.	-
Great-Britain (GB)	Not required.	-
Hungary (HU)	Not required.	-
Iceland (IS)	Not required.	-
Ireland (IE)	Not required.	-
Italy and San Marino (IT)	Required by sign.	15 November until 15 April
Latvia (LV)	Not required.	-
Lithuania (LT)	Not required.	-
Luxembourg (LU)	Required for the driven axle(s) in winter conditions. Not required for trailers. Please note: per 1 July 2020 new regulation.	-
North-Macedonia (MK)	Required by sign and in winter conditions.	15 November until 15 March
Moldova (MD)	Required for the driven axle(s).	1 December until 1 March
Montenegro (ME)	Required for at least one driven axle.	15 November until 30 March
Norway (NO)	Required for all axles, also for trailers.	15 November until 31 March
Poland (PL)	Not required, but recommended.	-
Portugal (PT)	Not required.	-
Romenia (RO)	Required for at least the driven axle(s) in winter conditions.	-
Serbia (RS)	Required for the driven axle(s) in winter conditions. Not required for trailers. Please note: per 1 July 2020 new regulation.	1 November until 31 March
Slovenia (SI)	Required for at least one driven axle in winter conditions.	15 November until 15 March
Slovakia (SK)	Required for at least one driven axle.	15 November until 31 March
Spain (ES)	Not required.	-
Sweden (SE)	Required for the driven axle(s) in winter conditions.	1 December until 31 March
Switzerland (CH)	Required by sign.	-
The Netherlands (NL)	Not required.	-
Ukraine (UA)	Not required.	-

This overview is based on the data as known on 1 September 2019. For current and additional information, please visit bandveilig.nl


PASSENGER CARS AND (LIGHT) COMMERCIAL VANS
 (≤ 3.500 KG)

Legislation snow chains in Europe

Country	Obligation	Period of time
Albania (AL)	Required on board in certain areas.	1 November until 30 April
Austria (AT)	Required on board and, in the case of a sign, required on the driving axle(s).	1 November until 15 April
Belarus (BY)	Not required.	-
Belgium (BE)	Only allowed on roads covered with snow or ice.	-
Bosnia and Herzegovina (BA)	Required on board in summer and winter conditions on the driven axle(s).	15 November until 15 April
Bulgaria (BG)	Required on board and, in the case of a sign, required on the driving axle(s).	1 November until 31 March
Croatia (HR)	Required on board and, in the case of a sign, required on the driving axle(s).	15 November until 15 April
Czech Republic (CZ)	Required by sign at all wheel positions.	-
Denmark (DK)	Only allowed on roads covered with snow or ice.	-
Germany (DE)	Required by sign on the driven axle(s).	-
Estonia (EE)	It is not required to have snow chains on board.	-
Finland (FI)	It is not required to have snow chains on board.	-
France (FR)	It is not required to have snow chains on board. There are exceptions, look at bandveilig.nl .	-
Greece (GR)	Required by sign on the driven axle(s).	-
Great-Britain (GB)	Allowed on snow-covered or ice-covered roads.	-
Hungary (HU)	Required by sign on the driven axle(s).	-
Iceland (IS)	Not required and only allowed on snow-covered roads.	-
Ireland (IE)	Allowed on snow-covered or ice-covered roads.	-
Italy and San Marino (IT)	Required by sign and required on board for summer tyres.	15 November until 15 April
Latvia (LV)	It is not required to have snow chains on board.	-
Lithuania (LT)	Not required.	-
Luxembourg (LU)	Required by sign.	-
North-Macedonia (MK)	Required on board for the driven axle(s).	15 October until 15 March
Moldova (MD)	Required on board.	-
Montenegro (ME)	Required on board for the driven axle(s).	15 November until 30 March
Norway (NO)	Allowed.	1 November until first Monday after Easter
Poland (PL)	Required by sign on the driven axle(s).	-
Portugal (PT)	Required by sign on the driven axle(s).	-
Romenia (RO)	Required on board in summer and in winter conditions.	-
Serbia (RS)	Required on board and by sign.	-
Slovenia (SI)	Required on board. Only allowed to use on roads covered with snow or ice.	15 November until 15 March
Slovakia (SK)	Required by sign on the driven axle(s).	-
Spain (ES)	Required by sign (especially in mountainous areas).	-
Sweden (SE)	Not required to have snow chains on board.	-
Switzerland (CH)	Required by sign on the driven axle(s).	-
The Netherlands (NL)	Not required.	-
Ukraine (UA)	Not required to have snow chains on board.	-

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Legislation snow chains in Europe

Country	Obligation	Period of time
Albania (AL)	Required on board in certain areas.	1 November until 30 April
Austria (AT)	Required by sign for the driven axle(s). Visit bandveilig.nl for more information.	1 November until 15 April
Belarus (BY)	Not required.	-
Belgium (BE)	Only allowed on roads covered with snow or ice.	-
Bosnia and Herzegovina (BA)	Required to have winter equipment on board. Visit bandveilig.nl for more information.	15 November until 15 April
Bulgaria (BG)	Required on board and, in the case of a sign, required for the driving axle(s).	1 November until 31 March
Croatia (HR)	Required on board and by sign on the driven axle(s).	15 November until 15 April
Czech Republic (CZ)	Required by sign and mounted on the driven axle(s), by > 7,5 tons required on board.	-
Denmark (DK)	Only allowed on roads covered with snow or ice.	-
Germany (DE)	Required by sign for the driven axle(s).	-
Estonia (EE)	It is not required to have snow chains on board.	-
Finland (FI)	It is not required to have snow chains on board.	-
France (FR)	It is not required to have snow chains on board. There are exceptions for certain areas. For more information visit bandveilig.nl .	-
Greece (GR)	Required by sign on the driven axle(s).	-
Great-Britain (GB)	Not required and only allowed on snowy or ice-covered roads.	-
Hungary (HU)	Required by sign on the driven axle(s).	-
Iceland (IS)	Not required and only allowed on snowy or ice-covered roads.	-
Ireland (IE)	Only allowed on roads covered with snow or ice.	-
Italy and San Marino (IT)	Required by sign and on board for summer tyres. In the case of twin wheels, snow chains are at least required for two wheels of the driving axle(s).	15 November until 15 April
Latvia (LV)	Not required and only allowed on snowy or ice-covered roads.	-
Lithuania (LT)	Not required to have snow chains on board.	-
Luxembourg (LU)	Required by sign.	-
North-Macedonia (MK)	Required on board for the driven axle(s). This does not apply to trailers.	15 October until 15 March
Moldova (MD)	Required on board.	-
Montenegro (ME)	Required on board.	15 November until 30 March
Norway (NO)	Required on board, visit bandveilig.nl for more information.	1 November until first Monday after Easter
Poland (PL)	Required by sign on the driven axle(s).	-
Portugal (PT)	Required by sign for at least two wheels of the driving axle(s).	-
Romenia (RO)	Required on board by for summer tyres and only allowed on roads covered with snow or ice.	-
Serbia (RS)	Required on board and by the sign. In the case of twin wheels with at least two wheels of the driven axle(s).	1 November until 31 March
Slovenia (SI)	Required on board. Only allowed on roads covered with snow or ice and for at least two wheels of the driving axle(s).	15 November until 15 March
Slovakia (SK)	For vehicles > 3.5 tonnes: required by sign. For vehicles > 12 tons : required on board.	15 November until 31 March
Spain (ES)	Required by sign (especially in mountainous areas).	-
Sweden (SE)	Not required to have snow chains on board.	-
Switzerland (CH)	Required by a sign and at least mounted on two wheels of the driven axle(s).	-
The Netherlands (NL)	Not required.	-
Ukraine (UA)	Not required to have snow chains on board.	-

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