

Chain Requirements

Revised 04/15



Vehicles are permitted in chain control areas when equipped with chains or Automatic Traction Device (ATD) as indicated. Tire traction devices are defined in the California Vehicle Code (VC) Section 605 which include conventional link-type tire chains and cable chains, as well as other less conventional devices. When the term “chains” is used here, it means any “tire traction device” (not necessarily link type chain) which meets the requirements of (VC) Section 605.

Vehicles with cable chains and other traction devices that meet the requirements of Vehicle Code Section 605 are legal in California. However, for the safety of the public, vehicles may be restricted at times due to local weather and road conditions.

Caltrans and the [California Highway Patrol \(CHP\)](#), reserve the right to prohibit any vehicle from entering a chain control area when it's determined that the traction devices do not meet the requirements of (VC) section 605.

LEGEND

- Driving axle
- Non-driving axle
- Wheel with chains or ATD
- Wheel with no chains or ATD
- Drive axle must be chained.
- Caltrans and CHP may require chains on all drive wheels if conditions warrant.
- Chains on trailers may be staggered front and back.
- Both axles must be chained (four wheels with chains or ATD).



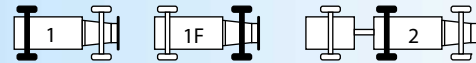
NOTES

- All vehicles, including four wheel or all wheel drive vehicles must carry chains upon entering a chain control area.
- Minimum legal tread depth for Mud and Snow tires is 6/32 of an inch.
- All vehicles, including four wheel drive vehicles, that are towing trailers must have chains on one drive axle.
- Front wheel drive vehicles must have chains on front (drive) axle.
- Trailers with brakes must have chains on one axle.
- On any semi-trailer, only one set of chains is required regardless of number of axles.
- Chains are not required on tag axle.
- Trucks or tractors equipped with Super Singles, chains are required on all drive wheels.



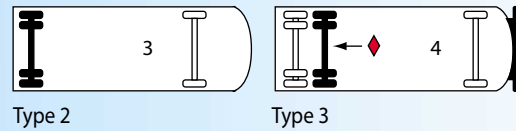
Acceptable on either axle of semi-trailers.

AUTOS/PICKUPS

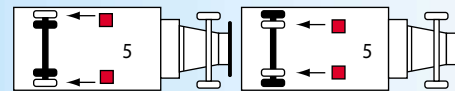


BUSES/RECREATIONAL VEHICLES

(Articulated buses must also chain outside wheels of last axle.)



TRUCKS

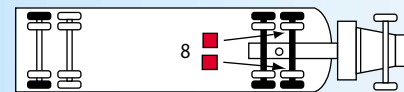


Truck Type 2

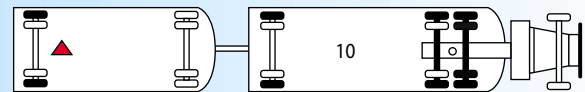


Truck Type 3

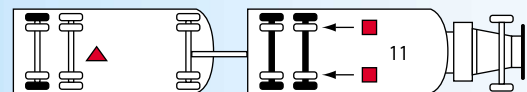
Tractor and Semi-trailer Single Dr.



Tractor and Semi-trailer Type 3-S-2

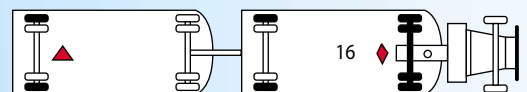


Tractor, Semi-trailer, and Trailer Type 3-S-1-T-2



Truck and Trailer Type 3-T-3 or 3-T-2

The following truck may be restricted when chains are required:



Tractor, Semi-trailer, and Trailer Type 2-S-1-T-2

For questions regarding these configurations, please contact the Caltrans Maintenance Program at (916) 657-4911.