

Winter Equipment Requirements

Austria	Winter tyres are strongly recommended between 1 st November and 15 th April. If winter tyres are not fitted motorists should carry snow chains, as these or winter tyres are legally required when the international road sign is used.
Belgium	No requirements
Croatia	If there is black ice or more than 5cm of snow – snow chains must be used motorists must also carry a snow shovel. (It is recommended to carry snow chains and a shovel from November-April)
Czech Republic	Winter tyres are compulsory from 1 st November – 31 st March whenever there is compacted snow or ice on the roads, if the temperature is lower than 4°C and there is a possibility of snow or ice, or where a blue sign showing a white car with a white snowflake underneath is present. Vehicles up to 3.5t must have winter tyres on all wheels (minimum depth tread 4mm) and vehicles over 3.5t must have winter tyres on the driving wheels (minimum depth tread 6mm).
Denmark	It is recommended to use winter tyres or carry snow chains, but there is no legal requirement to do so.
France	It is not a legal requirement to carry snow chains or have winter tyres fitted in France, however if the international road signage for snow chains is displayed it is then a legal requirement to use them. There is no legal requirement to use spiked tyres (and only vehicles under 3.5t are allowed to use them between 11 th November and the last Sunday in March)
Germany	In snowy or icy conditions cars and motor caravans must be equipped with winter tyres. The winter tyres must have the M + S mark on them with a depth tread of at least 4mm. Snow chains are no longer accepted. Failure to comply with this law can result in fines from €40-€80.
Hungary	It is recommended to use winter tyres or carry snow chains during the winter months, however, in very extreme weather conditions this recommendation can be changed to compulsory.
Ireland	No requirements
Italy	In the area of Val d'Aosta vehicles must be equipped with winter tyres or snow chains must be carried in vehicles throughout the winter. From 15 th October until 15 th April. Outside of the Val d'Aosta area, either winter tyres or snow chains must be used when the international sign is used.
Luxembourg	From the 1 st October 2012 all vehicles will need to be fitted with winter tyres (marked M + S) in wintry conditions such as frost, packed snow and ice
Netherlands	No requirements
Norway	There are no legal requirements, but drivers should use appropriate tyres for the conditions. It is highly recommended to fit winter tyres or carry snow chains.
Portugal	No requirements, but officials may close roads if the conditions are too dangerous.
Slovenia	From the 15 th November – 15 th March (or during winter conditions such as snow or black ice outside of these dates) cars and motor caravans must be equipped with winter tyres (minimum depth tread 4mm) or carry snow chains in the boot.
Spain	There is no specific law in Spain, and it is not a legal requirement to carry snow chains, however if the roads are covered in snow and ice, the police can

	stop motorists and refuse to let them continue their journey if they are not carrying snow chains or equipped to deal with the weather conditions
Sweden	Between October and March winter tyres must be fitted to vehicles and trailers if there is snow or ice on the roads or the temperature drops to around or below 0°C. Tyres must have a minimum depth tread of 3mm
Switzerland	It is not a legal requirement to have winter tyres, however, vehicles that are not equipped to deal with snow or impede traffic can face a fine. Snow chains are a legal requirement when the international road sign is used.

The picture below is of the international road sign which is used to advise motorists that snow chains or winter tyres need to be used. These signs are normally on the roadside and covered up in good weather, when weather conditions deteriorate and there is snow or ice on the roads, the signs are un-covered.



The following company give a 10% discount on sales and hire of snow chains to Caravan

Club members:

Polar Automotive Ltd
 Unit 8 Orchard Business Centre
 Sanderson Way
 Tonbridge
 Kent
 TN9 1QG

Telephone: 01732 360638

E-mail: sales@snowchains.com

Website: www.snowchains.com

In addition to the information above, it is recommended (and in some countries a legal requirement) to carry a snow shovel, and have anti-freeze in the windscreen fluid.