

**DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA HIGHWAY PATROL**

**PROPOSED REGULATION TEXT**

TITLE 13, CALIFORNIA CODE OF REGULATIONS,  
DIVISION 2, CHAPTER 4, ADD ARTICLE 13 TIRE TRACTION DEVICES,  
SECTIONS 1070-1074

**Tire Traction Devices  
(CHP-R-2014-03)**

*Existing text:* .....Times New Roman 12 point font.

*Additions:* .....Times New Roman 12 point font with single underline.

*Deletions:* .....~~Times New Roman 12 point font with strikethrough.~~

**Article 13. ~~Tire Chains~~Traction Devices**

§ 1070. Scope. This article applies to tire traction devices required by Vehicle Code Section 27459 to be used under certain conditions of snow or ice on the highway.

Note: Authority cited: 26103 California Vehicle Code. Reference cited: Sections 24006, 26103, 26104, 27459 and 27459.5 California Vehicle Code.

§ 1071. Definitions.

- (a) Alternative Tire Traction Device (ATTD) is a device which differs from conventional tire chains in construction, design, or material, including textile traction devices. The ATTD is capable of providing traction equal to or exceeding the performance of metal chains under similar conditions.
- (b) Automatic tire chain is a device which through automation places a portion of chain between the tire and roadway.
- (c) Snow-tread tires, commonly referred to as mud and snow tires, are pneumatic tires which have a relatively deep and aggressive tread pattern compared with conventional passenger tread pattern.
- (d) Studded tires are pneumatic tires containing metal-type studs of tungsten carbide or other suitable material which are embedded into the surface of the tire to improve traction on snowy or icy roads.
- (e) Tire cables are steel cables which have high strength steel cross member rollers which are evenly spaced to cover the surface area of the tire.
- (f) Tire chains are metal chains constructed of two circular metal chain loops, one on each side of the tire, connected by metal chains across the tire, which are evenly spaced except in the area where the chain loops are fastened and adjusted.

Note: Authority cited: 26103 California Vehicle Code. Reference cited: Sections 485, 558, 605, 610, 26103, 26104, 27454, 27459, 27460, 34501.5, and 34508 California Vehicle Code.

§ 1072. General Application. Different types of traction devices include: Tire chains, automatic tire chains, tire cables, and alternative traction control devices. Snow-tread tires and studded tires can improve traction on snow or ice; however, they are not considered traction control devices. When the California Department of Transportation posts official traffic control signs which require the use of chains for roadway conditions, vehicles must comply with the following:

- (a) For all vehicles, including vehicles with all-wheel drive and four wheel drive, under 10,000 pounds:
  - (1) The devices shall be mounted on at least two tires of the drive axle. For all-wheel drive or four wheel drive vehicles, the devices shall be mounted on two tires of the same drive axle.
  - (2) The devices shall be mounted on the drive axle and on the two tires of a towed trailer.
- (b) For buses:
  - (1) The devices shall be mounted on two tires of the first drive axle.
  - (2) In addition, if the bus is articulated the devices shall be mounted on at least two tires of the last axle.
- (c) For vehicles over 10,000 pounds:
  - (1) Pickup truck. The devices shall be mounted on at least two tires of the drive axle.
  - (2) Two axle motor truck. The devices shall be mounted on at least two tires of the drive axle.
  - (3) Three axle motor trucks. The devices shall be mounted on at least four tires of the drive axles.
  - (4) Truck tractor. The devices shall be mounted on at least four tires of the drive axle.
- (d) For vehicle combinations over 10,000 pounds:
  - (1) Truck tractor/Semitrailer. On a truck tractor the devices shall be mounted on at least four tires of the drive axle(s) and on a semi-trailer the devices shall be mounted on at least two tires of the last axle.
  - (2) Truck tractor/Semitrailer/Trailer. On a truck tractor the devices shall be mounted on at least four tires of the drive axle(s) and on a semi-trailer the devices shall be mounted on at least two tires of the last axle and on a trailer the devices shall be mounted on at least two tires of the last axle.
  - (3) Motor truck/Trailer. On a motor truck the devices shall be mounted on at least four tires of the drive axle(s) with a two or three axle trailer the devices shall be mounted on at least two tires of the last axle.
- (e) The Department of Caltrans and the California Highway Patrol may require tire traction devices on additional or all tires, when conditions warrant.

Note: Authority cited: 26103 California Vehicle Code. Reference cited: Sections 230, 233, 410, 471, 550, 558, 605, 630, 655, 670, 26103, 26104, 27454, 27459, 27460, 31401, 34501.5, and 34508 California Vehicle Code.

§ 1073. Tire Chain Requirements. Tire chains shall meet the design and construction requirements for regular or reinforced chains in the Tire Chain Specifications National

Association of Chain Manufacturers 92805 standard. The devices must be tested in accordance with the published standard on vehicles which are manufacturer certified as compliant with the United States Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards.

Note: Authority cited: 26103 California Vehicle Code. Reference cited: Sections 26103, 26104, 27459 and 27459.5 California Vehicle Code.

§ 1074. Alternative Tire Traction Device Requirements. Alternative Tire Traction Devices shall meet the following:

(a) The traction devices must be tested in accordance with the Önorm V5119 Standard, published by Austrian Standards Institute, on vehicles which are manufacturer certified as compliant with the United States Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards. The testing shall be conducted using United States Department of Transportation approved tires for the following configuration:

(1) For vehicles under 10,000 pounds, at minimum:

(A) On a two axle vehicle the devices shall be mounted on at least two of the same drive axle tires.

(B) Include the following tests:

(i) Durability testing of the product on dry or wet roadway;

(ii) Acceleration on snow and/or ice;

(iii) Deceleration on snow and/or ice; and

(iv) Traction force of the product on snow.

(v) Be compared to a tire chain when tested using the same standard to show that a traction device meets or exceeds the standard as compared to the results of a tire chain.

(2) For vehicles and combinations over 10,000 pounds, at minimum:

(A) On a two axle motor truck the devices shall be mounted on at least two of the same drive axle tires.

(B) On a three axle motor truck the devices shall be mounted on at least four tires of the drive axles.

(C) On truck tractors the devices shall be mounted on at least four tires of the drive axle(s).

(D) On a semi-trailer the devices shall be mounted on at least two tires of the last axle.

(E) On a two axle bus the devices shall be mounted on at least two tires of the drive axles.

(F) On a three axle bus the devices shall be mounted on at least two tires of the drive axles.

(G) Include the following tests:

(i) Durability testing of the product on dry or wet roadway;

(ii) Acceleration on snow and/or ice;

(iii) Deceleration on snow and/or ice; and

(iv) Traction force of the product on snow.

(v) Be compared to a tire chain when tested using the same standard to show that a traction device meets or exceeds the standard as compared to the results of a tire chain.

(b) Traction devices must cooperate well with any given electronic driving support such as Anti-locking Braking System, Electronic Stability Program, and Anti-Slip Regulation.

(c) Traction devices shall be resistant to ultraviolet light, corrosion, water, fuels, spreading salts and alcohols which may be used to aid in clearing the roadway.

(d) The following documentation must be provided to the Department, upon request:

(1) The testing standard used, in English.

(2) Documentation of the testing results, which must include the data produced for each test comparing the traction device to the referenced tire chain.

(3) A certified statement from the manufacturer of the traction device outlining what measurable indicator of wear can be used by law enforcement to indicate when the product will no longer provide adequate traction equivalent to a chain.

(4) Review and approval by a third-party testing agency that the tests were conducted according to the published standard. If testing cannot be done according to the published standard, companies may self-certify any supplemental tests necessary to comply with the requirements in this section, provided that the data from the tests is confirmed by a third-party testing agency. The Department may request the data be provided by the third-party testing agency directly.

(5) Certification of the test results by the manufacturer, which must contain the following statement "I certify that the test methods, conditions and results reported are accurate and complete" and bear the signature of the tester.

(e) The Department may, without prior notification, suspend the use of a device if it finds there is danger to the public health, safety, or welfare that requires immediate action.

Note: Authority cited: 26103 California Vehicle Code. Reference cited: Sections 230, 233, 410, 471, 550, 558, 605, 630, 655, 670, 26103, 26104, 27454, 27459, 27460, 31401, 34501.5, and 34508 California Vehicle Code.