

INFORMATION BULLETIN



May 24, 2024

TIRE TRACTION DEVICES

The term “tire traction devices,” as defined in Section 605 of the California Vehicle Code (CVC), has historically been associated with conventional, link-type tire chains (FIGURE 1) and cable chains (FIGURE 2). However, tire traction devices may also include devices manufactured from nontraditional (e.g., textile or plastic) materials, which may appear different from conventional tire chains or cable chains. This Information Bulletin (IB) supersedes prior tire traction-related IBs.

Tire traction devices and their application to vehicles are required to comply with Section 605 CVC and Title 13 of the California Code of Regulations (CCR), Article 13, Sections 1070 through 1074, as authorized by Section 26103 CVC. A violation of Section 27459 CVC exists when a tire traction device or the application of a tire traction device is deemed noncompliant with the above-referenced sections.

FIGURE 1



**Conventional, Link-Type
Tire Chains**

FIGURE 2



Cable Chains



Title 13, CCR, Section 1071, identifies a device manufactured from nontraditional materials as an alternative traction device (ATD) and defines them as “a tire traction device which differs from tire chains in construction, design, or material.”

An ATD may include, but is not limited to, textile traction devices (FIGURE 3), which “are constructed of a fabric weave covering which is installed over the tire and provides additional traction material to the tread area of the tire.” Additionally, an ATD may include a tire traction device composed of multiple materials (e.g., a textile and thermoplastic polyurethane traction device [FIGURE 4]) or automatic tire chains (FIGURE 5).

FIGURE 3



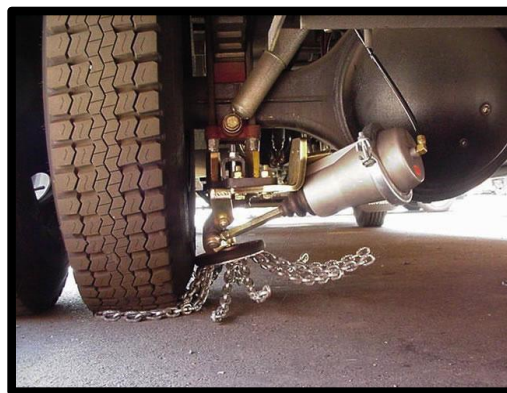
Textile Traction Device

FIGURE 4



**Textile/Thermoplastic
Polyurethane Traction Device**

FIGURE 5



Automatic Tire Chain

Title 13, CCR, Section 1073, requires tire chains to “meet the design, construction, and testing requirements for regular or reinforced chains in the National Manufacturers’ ‘Tire Chain Specifications Number NACM 92805 (TC)’.” Title 13, CCR, Section 1071,



indicates an ATD must “meet or exceed the regulatory standards for tire chains or tire cables.” Title 13, CCR, Section 1074, also requires an ATD to comply with the Önorm V5117 Standard, the Önorm V5119 Standard, or the Önorm V5121 Standard. Although manufacturers of tire traction devices are required to certify the prescribed standards have been laboratory tested for compliance, there is no requirement to provide proof of specific testing data roadside.

Tire traction devices, including any packaging, are required to be marked to indicate compliance with the specific standard used. Required markings, themselves, are not standardized or regulated and may appear as symbols (FIGURE 6) or plain text. Worn or damaged markings do not constitute a noncompliant device. Markings depicted in this document are not intended to suggest any industry standard and are provided for example only.

FIGURE 6



Examples of Markings

While a tire traction device may consist of different designs, materials, or construction, the focus should remain on whether it improves vehicle traction, braking, and cornering ability upon snow- or ice-covered surfaces, and whether it provides adequate structural integrity and securement to prevent accidental detachment from a vehicle.

The CHP neither endorses nor recommends the use of any specific design or style of tire traction device. End-users of tire traction devices and enforcement personnel should refer to the requirements set forth in Section 605 CVC, and regulations outlined in Title 13, CCR, Article 13, beginning with Section 1070. Additionally, end-users should refer to the tire traction device and/or vehicle manufacturer’s recommended procedures for the application and use of their tire traction devices.

The enforcement of applicable statutory sections applies to vehicles described in both the CVC and the regulatory sections. Pursuant to Title 13, CCR, Section 1072(h), vehicles without tire traction devices or with tire traction devices not meeting the requirements of Title 13, CCR, Article 13, are prohibited from entering a designated



chain control area. Enforcement personnel are reminded to use sound, professional judgment when conducting enforcement action on any type of regulatorily compliant tire traction device when a portion of the highway is signed for the requirement of tire traction devices (“chain control” areas), pursuant to Section 27459 CVC.

Note: In accordance with Title 13, CCR, Section 1072(g), enforcement personnel may require a specific type of tire traction device to be installed when severe local weather and highway conditions warrant. Additional tire traction devices may also be required to be carried or installed (“maximum chains”) in addition to those requirements described in regulations (“minimum chains”) when conditions, as determined by enforcement personnel, are warranted.

Questions regarding this IB should be directed to the Commercial Vehicle Section, at (916) 843-3400.

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

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