Chain Requirements

Vehicles are permitted in chain control areas when equipped with tire traction devices.

Tire traction devices are defined in the California Vehicle Code (VC) Section 605. Minimum legal tread depth for mud and snow tires is 6/32 of an inch.

Caltrans and the California Highway Patrol 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 section 605.

LEGEND
- Driving axle.
- Non-driving axle.
- Wheel with traction device.
- Wheel with no traction device.
- Drive axle must have traction devices.
- Traction devices on trailers may be staggered front and back.
- Traction devices required on inside dual (if possible).
- Caltrans may require traction devices on all drive wheels if conditions warrant.
- Both axles must be equipped with traction devices (four wheels with traction devices).

NOTES
- All vehicles, including four wheel drive vehicles, must carry traction devices upon entering a chain control area.
- All vehicles, including four wheel drive vehicles, that are towing trailers must have traction devices on one drive axle.
- Trailers with brakes must have traction devices on one axle.
- Front wheel drive vehicles must have traction devices on front (drive) axle.
- On any semi-trailer, only one set of traction devices is required regardless of number of axles.
- Traction devices are not required on tag axle.
- Trucks or tractors equipped with super singles, traction devices are required on all drive wheels.

Acceptable on either axle of semi-trailers.

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