STATE OF CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (Caltrans)

# Chain Requirements

Revised 1/16

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 as well as other less conventional devices are legal in California. However, these may be restricted at times due to local conditions.

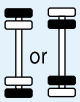
Minimum legal tread depth for mud and snow tires is 6/32 of an inch. Caltrans and the California Highway Patrol (CHP), reserve the right to prohibit any vehicle from entering a chain control area when it's determined that the traction devices do not meet the requirements of (VC) section 605.

## LEGEND

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

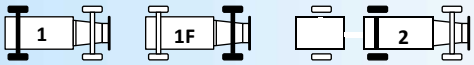
## NOTES

- All vehicles, including four wheel or all wheel drive vehicles must carry chains upon entering a chain control area.
- **All** vehicles, including four wheel drive vehicles that are towing trailers must have chains on one drive axle.
- Trailers with brakes must have chains on one axle.
- Front wheel drive vehicles must have chains on front (drive) 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.



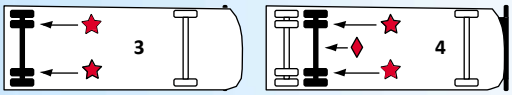

Acceptable on either axle of semi-trailers.

## AUTOS/PICKUPS



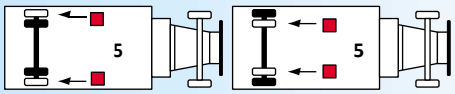

## BUSES/RECREATIONAL VEHICLES

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

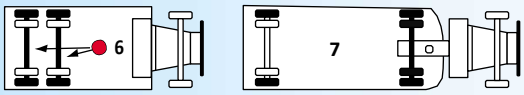



Type 2 Type 3

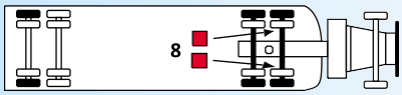
## TRUCKS



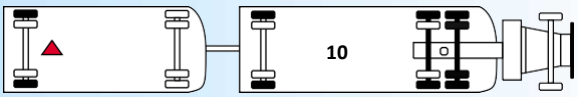

Truck Type 2



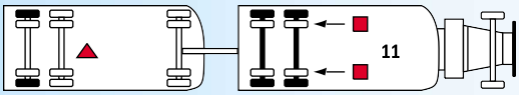

Truck Type 3 Tractor and Semi-trailer Single Dr.




Tractor and Semi-trailer Type 3-S-2

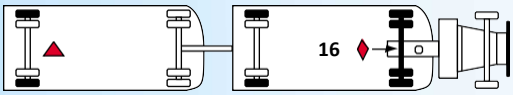



Tractor, Semi-trailer, and Trailer Type 3-S-1-T-2




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