

Colorado Traction Law Updates

Fact Sheet

In 2019, Gov. Jared Polis signed House Bill 19-1207 into law, updating the Traction Law on particular sections of I-70 from September to May.

These updates are meant to alleviate delays and crashes along this corridor during the peak winter driving season. Electronic signs will notify the public when there are additional closures or restrictions along I-70 in addition to the Traction Law.

What is the bill?

- Requires all motorists to comply with the Traction Law on I-70 between Dotsero and Morrison from Sept. 1 through May 31.
- Violators will be given a citation, which comes with a \$100 fine and \$32 surcharge. That jumps to a \$500 fine with a \$156 surcharge if a violation results in the closure of one or more traffic lanes.
- The new law increases the minimum tread depth for tires on all vehicles — including those with four-wheel drive — from an 1/8" to 3/16".

What does it mean?

- All motorists are required to have **EITHER**:
 - 4WD or AWD vehicle and 3/16" tread depth
 - Tires with a mud and snow designation (M+S icon) and 3/16" tread depth
 - Winter tires (mountain-snowflake icon) and 3/16" tread depth
 - Tires with an all-weather rating by the manufacturer and 3/16" tread depth
 - Chains or an approved alternative traction device
- The law focuses on passenger vehicles. Commercial vehicles have their own restrictions.
- It is unlawful to proceed when a state highway is closed or when a restriction is in effect and you lack the required traction equipment.

More Traction Law Information

For more information about the Traction Law, visit codot.gov/tractionlaw, COtrip.org, or call 511 for traffic updates, weather forecasts and additional travel resources.



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