



TRUCK TIRE NEWS

NEWS AND INFORMATION FROM GOODYEAR DUNLOP TIRES EUROPE

Winter Tire Special



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News and information from Goodyear Dunlop Tires Europe

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New Goodyear Trailer Tire Completes Winter Tire Family

The new Goodyear Ultra Grip WTT is the company's first dedicated winter tire for trailers, providing truck and trailer combinations with the ultimate tire selection for severe conditions. The Goodyear Ultra Grip WTT (Winter Traction Trailer) complements the Ultra Grip WTS steer tire and Ultra Grip WTD drive tire. Together they give the top tire line-up for truck operators with vehicles running where snow, ice and/or low temperatures are encountered.

The Goodyear Ultra Grip WTT joins the Ultra Grip WTS and Ultra Grip WTD ranges, which provide excellent performance in winter conditions, keeping fleet efficiency at maximum level by providing good mileage, all season capability and excellent snow handling and braking. The Ultra Grip WTT, which shares the same attributes as the WTS and WTD, offers improved grip to the trailer, thus enhancing the performance of truck and trailer combinations for all winter roads.

This new tire is a further illustration of Goodyear's commitment to produce innovative products to help vehicle operators achieve the optimal results from their vehicles. *"This tire is a direct result of us responding to market requirements. Operators, particularly in the Nordic countries, wanted a 265/70R19.5 winter trailer tire and we have produced it specifically for them. We are committed to work closely with both vehicle operators and manufacturers to ensure our products not only achieve the results they want, but also to be proactive in finding innovative ways of improving operational economy, efficiency and reliability even further,"* said Boris Stevanovic, Marketing Director Truck Tires for Goodyear Dunlop Tires Europe BV.

Ultra Grip WTS, WTD and WTT tires provide similar mileage performance to standard steer and drive tires. They also provide significantly improved traction and braking performance on snow and ice, with a minimum of 10% better traction compared to standard long or regional haul steer and drive tires. In addition, steering and stability characteristics are significantly better on snowy and icy roads.

Wet braking performance from these tires shows about a 10% improvement compared to standard long or regional haul tires. This is mainly due to the block type design features in the tread, which have dense blading and specific tread compounds.



Ultra Grip WTT 265/70R19.5

Size	Design	Load/Speed
265/70R19.5	WTT	143/141J

Goodyear Ultra Grip Range

The Goodyear Ultra Grip winter tire family comprises the WTS steer tire, WTD drive tire and now the WTT trailer tire. In all, 16 tires are available, which Goodyear believes is the most comprehensive range of winter tires on the European market.

The WTS range comprises nine sizes, among which is the 355/50R22.5 Ultra Grip WTS. This unique size has the same diameter as a 295/60R22.5 and offers a 7.5 tonne axle load capacity.

The Ultra Grip WTS offers high mileage thanks to the latest compound technology and an improved footprint, which has been achieved through a specially adapted belt package. In addition to improvements in mileage and traction, the tire's characteristics include a more even wear profile, good steering ability, higher wet skid resistance and stone rejection. The outstanding wet traction is achieved through the compound and groove amplitudes. These tires have stud locations should they be required.

The Ultra Grip WTD drive tire range comprises six sizes. This tire complements the Ultra Grip WTS winter steer tire. Goodyear considers these two tires to be the industry benchmarks in winter tires, a benchmark that is now further extended with the introduction of the Ultra Grip WTT.

Among the significant features of the Ultra Grip WTD is the tread pattern. This incorporates 3D-BIS Technology (Block Interlocking System) featuring trapezoidal shaped blades. Combined with a high void ratio and blade density, these features give excellent traction in snow, on ice and in the wet as well as improved wear pattern and better damage resistance.

The decoupled blocks and high tear-resistant tread compound add to the wet traction and grip performance as well as giving an even wear profile and extended mileage. Further benefits include reduced stone damage and cut resistance. The tread pattern also has a groove width and shape which give outstanding stone retention prevention. It also has open shoulders, which enhance snow and mud traction as well as side grip. The construction incorporates the latest technology giving high durability and retreadability. The special groove amplitudes coupled with staggered 'Z' blades in the tread help to improve snow braking and traction by up to 25% and the tires can be studded if required for further grip.

Ultra Grip WTD, Ultra Grip WTS and Ultra Grip WTT tires are fully regrooveable and retreadable.



Goodyear Ultra Grip winter tires are also designed for use on buses and coaches. Specific sizes of the WTS tire are recommended as all-position tires for buses and coaches in all but extreme winter conditions. There are fitments too that are recommended as optional drive tires for buses and coaches in mixed winter operations. For extreme winter conditions the Ultra Grip WTD should be mounted on the drive axle.

Also included in the range is the 275/70R22.5 Ultra Grip WTS City steer tire, which features reinforced sidewalls for excellent curb scuffing resistance and is recommended as an all position tire for urban vehicles.

With the introduction of the Ultra Grip WTT, Goodyear believes that its Ultra Grip range covers all winter tire applications and sets the industry benchmark in this increasingly important market sector.

Goodyear Ultra Grip Specifications

Size	Design	Load/Speed	Load/Speed 2
12R22.5	WTS	152/148 K	150/146 L
295/60R22.5	WTS	150/147 K	149/146 L
315/60R22.5	WTS	152/148 L	
275/70R22.5	WTS City	148/145 M	152/148 E
295/80R22.5	WTS	152/148 L	
315/80R22.5	WTS	156/150 K	154/150 L
385/65R22.5	WTS	160/K	158/L
385/55R22.5	WTS	160/K	158/L
355/50R22.5	WTS	154 K	152 L
315/80R22.5	WTD	156/150 L	154/150 M
315/70R22.5	WTD	154/150 K	152/148 L
295/80R22.5	WTD	152/148 L	
12R22.5	WTD	152/148 K	150/146 L
295/60R22.5	WTD	152/148 K	150/146 L
315/60R22.5	WTD	152/148 L	
265/70R19.5	WTT	143/141 J	



Fulda Launches New Winter Tires



Fulda, which is one of Germany's leading quality tire manufacturers and a company within Goodyear Dunlop, has launched the Fulda Wintercontrol and Fulda Winterforce winter tire range. These brand new tires have been designed and developed for truck steer and drive axles as well as for use on coaches and buses. Both tires offer excellent traction and braking in winter and wet conditions combined with good damage-resistance and low cost per kilometer.

The comprehensive Fulda truck tire range has not previously included winter tires. *"The introduction of a winter tire program to the Fulda range is due to the rising demand for winter tires from truck operators,"* said Boris Stevanovic, Marketing Director Truck Tires for Goodyear Dunlop Tires Europe BV. *"This demand is coming more and more from hauliers and coach operators with trans-border operations as well as those in the traditional winter tire areas such as the Nordic Countries, Russia and Alpine regions. Last winter many trucks were caught out by sudden unexpected snow falls leaving them stranded and unable to deliver their goods. We are also seeing authorities requiring more stringent measures to ensure that trucks and coaches keep moving and for greater safety when roads are slippery."*

The Fulda Wintercontrol is a steer axle tire and is also ideal for all position use on buses and coaches. The Fulda Winterforce is a drive axle tire for drive axles and is also suitable for buses and coaches that operate in extreme winter conditions. Both tires are available in the two most popular sizes of 315/80R22.5 and 295/80R22.5. The tires are also suitable for year round use if required and can be regrooved and retreaded.

The carcass and construction of both tires feature a new generation of cavity shape, which ensures an even wear profile. This even wear profile is further enhanced by optimized gauge distribution, which provides good handling and stability with durability. New reinforcement cords give better carcass integrity and good durability for retreadability.

The proven tread compound provides not only high mileage but also a high level of traction performance on wet roads, snow and ice as well as damage resistance.

The Wintercontrol tread has a 5-rib design that provides balanced pressure distribution for even wear. High mileage, good stability, good traction and wet skid resistance are further benefits.

The Winterforce tread has a high density of 3D blades providing excellent traction and braking on all surfaces. It provides excellent traction on wet roads and on snow, with good self cleaning properties.



Is an M+S Tire a Winter Tire? Q & As

There is a lot of confusion as to the definition of winter tires and when and where they should be used. In some countries, at certain times and in specific conditions the law may say winter tires must be used. However sometimes those laws do not define a winter tire so interpretation may be confusing. To try and make the picture clearer, here are a few of the questions Goodyear gets asked by customers.

Q - What is a winter tire?

A - There is no internationally accepted definition of a winter tire for commercial vehicles. In some cases a tire marked M+S or similar may be regarded as such in regulations but in others it is a tire specifically developed for extreme winter conditions. This is one reason why Goodyear has adopted its own identification to help both operators and law enforcement officers. This is a logo showing a snowflake beside a mountain (see the illustration on the right).

Q - What does M+S mean?

A - It stands for 'mud and snow'. This means that the tire is suitable for occasional use in such conditions. Generally speaking it is not a winter tire and not suitable for extreme conditions or use in winter conditions for other than a very short period.

Q - Why should I fit winter tires?

A - Clearly if the law requires winter tires you must have them. However, for vehicles travelling regularly on snow or ice covered roads or in low temperatures, winter tires should be used. Not only are they safer but they also ensure greater reliability and less chance the vehicle will get stuck. Winter tires are not only for snow and ice, they are also designed to give good performance at low temperatures. For best economy in winter, such tires are important. They can be used all year round without problems.

Q - What else do you recommend in winter?

A - In winter we recommend a minimum tread depth of at least 6 mm, unless regulations say otherwise, to maximise grip. Carrying snow chains even if not required by law as well as a shovel and tow rope is sensible too. If you do become stuck, reducing tyre pressures can help get grip, as can using sacking or other material under tires. However you must be careful that such material does not get thrown out by the rotating tire and cause damage or injury. Tire pressures should also be re-inflated as soon as possible to ensure you remain legal. Also check the regulations if you are travelling abroad.



Goodyear Winter Tire Symbol



Snow Chains Required

International Winter Tire Requirements



Albania – It is compulsory to carry snow chains from November 1 to April 30 in the following regions;

1 - Northern Albania, in the prefectures of the cities of Shkodra, Kukesi, Peshkopia, Burrel, Puka, Rreshen and Tropoja;

2 - North-east and south-east Albania, in the prefectures of the cities of Librazhd, Pogradec, Korca, Bilisht, Erseka, Gramshi, and Permeti.

Chains should be fitted to the drive axles of commercial vehicles and to all drive wheels on a road train or articulated vehicle. Legislation for the use of winter tires is in the Highway Code of the Republic of Albania under law n/8378. Recognised winter tires should be fitted. Infringements carry a fine of up to ALL 25,000 (USD \$200).



Austria – It is compulsory to carry snow chains on board vehicles over 3.5 tonnes between November 15 and March 15. Roads may show signs ‘Schneeketten vorgeschrieben’. This sign does not mean it is compulsory to carry chains but to fit them on at least two drive wheels on the same axle. On other roads, chains must be fitted when conditions require it and the driver must decide for his and other road user’s safety. Snow chains must conform to ÖNORM standards or carry an EU CE number and be fitted properly so that the complete surface of the tire is covered and that there is always contact between the chains and the road. It is not compulsory to carry a spade and chains may be required for abnormal load movements.

It is compulsory for all passenger and goods vehicles of over 3.5 tonnes to be equipped with winter tires between November 15 and March 15 on at least one drive axle. The minimum tread for crossply winter tires is 6mm and 5mm for winter radials. Tires should carry the mark M+S, M.S. or M&S. Tyres must be of the same type per axle: it is possible to mount summer tires on the front axle and winter tires on the rear axle. Penalties vary between regions but may be up to €5,000 or six weeks’ imprisonment.



Azerbaijan – There are no rules regarding snow chains or the use of winter tires.



Belgium – Snow chains may be used in snowy or icy conditions but it is not compulsory to carry them. Studded tires may be used from November 1 to March 31 on vehicles up to 3.5 tonnes and breakdown vehicles provided the necessary decree has been issued by the Ministry of Communication. Maximum speed limit for studded tires is 90 km/h on motorways and dual carriageways and 60 km/h on other roads. Minimum tread depth 1.6 mm including winter tires.



Bosnia Herzegovina – From November 15 to April 15 winter equipment is compulsory on all snow-covered roads. A minimum of one pair of chains must be fitted to the drive axle. Police can order a driver to fit chains or to take the vehicle to a place where winter equipment can be obtained. All coaches and trucks should carry a shovel as well as a bag containing between 20kg and 50kg of sand. The use of winter tires (MS or M+S) is covered by the law on the Security of Road Traffic. Tires should have a minimum tread depth of 4mm. Infringements can result in a fine of about €200 to €2,500.



Bulgaria – Snow chains must be carried from November 1 to March 31 and the authorities may impose the mandatory use of snow chains when crossing mountain passes. Chains must be used in compliance with the relevant road sign and fitted on at least two drive wheels. Vehicles not properly equipped will not be allowed to use the road to which the sign applies and may be refused entry to Bulgaria.



Croatia – Snow chains are obligatory when there is at least 5 cm of snow on the road or when the road is covered in ice. Vehicles should carry one pair of snow chains for the drive axle and a spade. Vehicles not carrying winter equipment will be forbidden to use the roads. Police have authority to order drivers to fit snow chains or to take the vehicle to where chains and appropriate tires can be obtained. Fines are in the region of HRK 6,000 for companies allowing vehicles on the road without the necessary equipment and HRK 150 for drivers who have not fitted snow chains. In winter the minimum tread depth must be at least 4mm. Studded tires are forbidden.



Czech Republic – Snow chains should be carried during winter months if vehicle weight exceeds 7.5 tonnes and must be fitted when the relevant road sign is displayed. A minimum of one pair of chains must be fitted to the drive axle; in the case of a vehicle combination two pairs of chains must be fitted. Vehicles with them may not exceed 50 km/h. Studded tires are forbidden. Minimum tread depth 1.6 mm.



Denmark – Minimum tread depth 1.6mm up to 3.5 tonnes and 1.0mm above. There is no relevant specific legislation.



Estonia – Snow chains are not compulsory. The use of studded tires is permitted between October 1 and May 1.



Finland – It is not compulsory to carry snow chains but they must be used in winter months. Studded tires are permitted from November 1 to March 31. Winter tires with a minimum tread depth of 3mm are compulsory for vehicles of 3.5 tonnes and above from December to February. They are not compulsory for vehicle of less than 3.5 tonnes but tread depth must be over 1.6mm.



France – The use of snow chains is authorised on all snow-covered roads no matter the period. Use is compulsory in compliance with the road sign 'Equipements speciaux obligatoires'. Fines are imposed for non-compliance. The use of winter tires is not covered by specific legislation. However on roads equipped with the B26 signpost, if it is not specified that the use of winter tires is acceptable ('pneus neige admis'), the driver must fit chains. Studded tires are authorised for vehicles of less than 3.5 tonnes GVW (maximum speed 90 km/h) except for certain limited uses where the local Prefect can grant derogations to vehicles of more than 3.5 tonnes carrying essential goods, perishable foodstuffs or dangerous goods (maximum speed 60 km/h). Minimum tread depth 1 mm.



Germany – It is obligatory to equip vehicles to suit the prevailing weather conditions, particularly with regard to appropriate tires for wintry conditions. Snow chains must be fitted on snow covered roads in compliance with the relevant road signs. Non-compliance incurs a fine. Chains should be fitted to the drive axle. The maximum speed is 50 km/h. Vehicles should carry a spade, pickaxe and tow rope. Minimum tread depth is 1.6mm. Studded tires are illegal.



Greece – Minimum tread depth 1.6 mm.



Hungary – Snow chains may be used on snowy and icy roads with a maximum speed is 50 km/h. If the 'Mandatory use of snow chains' sign is displayed at borders, only vehicles carrying chains may enter. In exceptional weather conditions, vehicle entry may be restricted. There are heavy fines for using snow chains on dry roads and the use of studded tires is forbidden. Minimum tread depth 1.6 mm. There is no specific legislation regarding the use of winter tires.



Ireland – There is no snow chain legislation, nor legislation concerning the use of winter tires.



Italy – It is not compulsory to carry snow chains all the time during winter, but they must be used when necessary, in accordance with signs. At least one pair of chains must be fitted per vehicle. As incoming traffic generally travels through high mountains it is advisable to carry chains. Road signs will indicate when winter tires must be fitted and infringements are subject to a fine of between €71 and €287. Minimum tread depth 1.6 mm.



Kazakhstan – There is no specific legislation regarding the use of snow chains or winter tires.



Latvia – It is not compulsory to carry snow chains. The use of winter tires or studded tires is compulsory only for vehicles up to or including 3.5 tonnes GVW from December 1 to March 1. The use of studded tires is forbidden from May 1 to October 1.



Lithuania – It is not compulsory to carry snow chains. Studded tires are forbidden from April 10 to November 1. For vehicles of up to 3.5 tonnes, the use of summer tires is forbidden from November 10 to April 1. The minimum tread depth depends on vehicle category and varies between 1mm and 2mm except for category M2 which must have a minimum tread depth of 3.0mm from November 10 to April 1.



Luxembourg - There is no obligation to carry snow chains or use winter tires. Legislation is currently being drafted for cars and light vans. Minimum tread depth 1.6 mm.



Macedonia – Between October 15 and March 15 all vehicles must be equipped with snow chains. If snow chains are not carried on board, fines will be levied and the vehicle will be prohibited from moving in poor weather conditions. Winter tires are not compulsory but if used must have a minimum tread depth of 5mm.



Moldova – There is no specific legislation regarding snow chains or winter tires.



Montenegro – Winter equipment (suitable tires and chains) is required.



Netherlands –There is no obligation to carry snow chains or use winter tires. The use of winter tires is neither compulsory nor forbidden. Minimum tread depth 1.6mm.



Norway – It is compulsory to carry the correct number of snow chains on vehicles of over 3.5 tonnes GVW during winter regardless of conditions. In the counties of Nordland, Troms and Finnmark the winter period is October 16 to April 30; elsewhere it is from November 1 to the first Monday after Easter Monday. These dates may change according to the weather. Chains must make contact with the road at all times irrespective of the type of tire. At least three chains must be used on motor vehicles with a total weight of 3.5 tonnes, one being fitted to a front wheel and two to the drive axle. For combined vehicles with a total maximum permitted weight of more than 3.5 tonnes at least seven chains must be used if the drive axle has twin wheels. One chain must be fitted to the front wheel, one to each wheel of the drive axle and two to the trailer. If the vehicle has single wheels on the drive axle or if double chains are used then five chains are sufficient as only two will be fitted to the wheels of the drive axle. Winter tires must be fitted if the driver will travel on roads where snow and ice can be expected. Minimum tread depth is 3mm but 5mm is recommended. Studded tires are forbidden between the first Monday after Easter Monday and October 31 unless driving conditions dictate otherwise. In Nordland, Troms and Finnmark they are forbidden between May 1 and October 15 but exceptions can be made by the authorities. Oslo, Trondheim and Bergen levy a tax on vehicles with studded tires within the city.



Poland – Chains must be used if signs indicate. Studs are forbidden.



Portugal – The use of snow chains is compulsory on all vehicles in compliance with the relevant road signs in the mountainous regions such as Serra da Estrela during the winter months. Fines of up to €125 may be levied if road signs are ignored. There is no specific legislation concerning the use of winter tires. Minimum tire tread depth is 1.6mm.



Romania – The use of snow chains is compulsory for vehicles exceeding 3.5 tonnes GVW where signposted for as long as the road remains snow covered. There is no specific legislation regarding the use of winter tires except that a minimum tread depth of 2mm is required. In snowy or icy conditions enforcement officers may prohibit goods vehicles of more than 12 tonnes GVW from continuing.



Russia – The use of snow chains is recommended in the Ural mountains. Otherwise the use of chains and winter tires is at the driver's discretion.



Serbia – Winter equipment is compulsory if travelling through Serbia.



Slovakia – Snow chains must be carried and used during winter months. Drivers should watch for the warning sign, 'Snehove Retaze'. When used, chains must be fitted to at least two wheels of the drive axle. Fines of up to SKK 2,000 are imposed for infringement of this regulation. Minimum tread depth is 1mm to show minimum tread pattern depth.



Slovenia – Between 15 November and 15 March winter tires and snow chains should be fitted or carried or admission at the border may be refused. Winter tires should have a minimum tread depth of 4mm.



Spain – No specific legislation regarding winter tires. Minimum tread depth 1.6 mm.



Sweden – It is not compulsory to carry snow chains. It is compulsory for all vehicles with an GVW of 3.5 tonnes or less to be equipped with winter tires between December 1 and March 31 when winter conditions such as ice, snow, slush or frost are present on any part of the road. Minimum tread depth is 3mm. Tires must have the following markings to indicate suitability for winter conditions: M+S, M-S, M.S. M&S, MS or Mud and Snow. If the vehicle has a trailer this also applies to the trailer. For vehicles over 3.5 tonnes GVW similar conditions apply. Winter tires should be fitted between December 1 and March 31 when winter conditions prevail. The minimum tread depth is 5mm. Tires must be marked to indicate their suitability for winter conditions. This does not apply to the trailer. Studded tires are permitted from October 1 to April 15 and at all times when their use is appropriate. Further information is available from www.transportstyrelsen.se/en/road/vehicles/winter-tires. The minimum tread depth 1.6 mm.



Switzerland – It is not obligatory to carry snow chains, however their use is compulsory on roads signposted 'Chaines à neige obligatoires'; the time period is unspecified as Alpine regions may be subject to summer snowfall. At least two drive wheels on the same axle, or one per side in case of twin wheels, must be fitted with metallic snow chains or with similar equipment made of some other substance, which is authorised by the Federal Office for Roads (OSR Art 29). If the compulsory use of chains is signposted and the vehicle is not so equipped a fine of CHF100 is imposed. Studded tires are authorised for vehicles up to 3.5 tonnes gross weight from November 1 to April 30. Minimum tread depth 1.6 mm.



Turkey – It is compulsory to carry snow chains aboard vehicles although no specific regions nor dates are set. The use of winter tires is not compulsory.



Ukraine – The use of snow chains is not compulsory.



Uzbekistan - The use of snow chains is not compulsory, neither is there any specific legislation regarding the use of winter tires.



United Kingdom – No requirement for snow chains or winter tires. Minimum tread depth on commercial vehicles of 3.5 tonnes GVW and above 1mm other vehicles 1.6mm.

PLEASE NOTE

The advice given above is for guidance only and in all cases the local regulations regarding the use of tires and winter equipment should be checked before entering any country.

Thanks to the Freight Transport Association for help compiling this advice, which can be found in their *International Road Transport Guide*.