



## NEW TRAFFIC SIGN

“Winter Equipment = Compulsory Use of Winter Tires”



**Winter Equipment**



**Winter Equipment - End**

### What is the sign “Winter Equipment”?

The signs “Winter Equipment” and “Winter Equipment – End” are quite new traffic signs valid since 1.7.2008. They determine sections of roads on which there is an obligation to have vehicles of category M and N equipped for driving in winter conditions as regards equipped tires.

### What does this sign order?

The traffic sign “Winter equipment” orders drivers of motor vehicles to continue only on the condition of using winter tires on all wheels (for vehicles up to 3,500 kg inclusive) or only on driving wheels (for vehicles above 3,500 kg). The 3,500 kg weight limit for the purpose of this sign is meant as the maximum admissible weight of a vehicle; in accordance with old legislation it is the total weight.

### What is a winter tire?

A winter tire is a tire the side of which is marked M+S, M.S, M/S, MS or terrain tires.

### What other conditions must be met by winter tires?

The depth of treads of main tread grooves or furrows of the tire must be at least 4 mm on all wheels (for vehicles up to 3,500 kg) or 6 mm at least on all driving wheels (for vehicles above 3,500 kg).

### Why just 4 or 6 mm?

In accordance with research and also based on experience, it was ascertained that winter tires with depth of treads less than 4 mm (in case of vehicles up to 3,500 kg) lose their effectiveness on snow - they lose the so called self-cleaning effect.

### Is it possible to use retread tires?

Yes, it is possible. They must be marked as mentioned above, i.e. M+S, M.S, M/, MS or terrain tires.

### What about trailers?

The obligation resulting from this traffic sign does not apply to private trailers; the obligations applies only to a motor vehicle of M and N categories that pulls the trailer.

### Is it possible to substitute winter tires with snow chains?

Yes, in cases the road is covered with a sufficient layer of snow or ice.

### When is this sign valid?

The traffic sign is valid in the period **from November 1 to March 31**. An additional sign may be placed under this traffic sign stating different times for required use.

### When does the validity of this order end?

Validity of this traffic sign ends only with the traffic sign “Winter Equipment – End”.

### Can I find out on which roads this sign is placed?

The Ministry of Transport supports publication of information for placement of this traffic sign on roads.