

2 CCR 601-14
Rules Governing Chain Law and Passenger Vehicle Traction Law Requirements on the
State Highway System

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Statement of Basis and Purpose and Statutory Authority

The purpose of these rules is to describe the travel conditions, types of vehicles, and the locations which require tire chains, adequate types of tires, four-wheel drive or other means to provide adequate traction, when the Department determines such means are necessary to protect the safety of the travelling public and to minimize the occurrence of road closures. The Department revised the rules in order to make them more understandable to the travelling public. It removed the codes used to communicate when chains or snow tires were required and replaced the codes with clearer categories pertaining to Passenger Vehicles and Commercial Motor Vehicles, and updated the rules to current practice. The new rules explicitly refer to "Non-Commercial or Recreational Vehicles" and state that they fall within the specified type of travel restriction depending on the vehicle weight and the road and weather conditions. These changes to the rules reflect the now widespread use of communicating via electronic messaging signs and via other means of technology. Additional changes being proposed address existing provisions of the rule on the grounds of clarity, accuracy and completeness as required by the Colorado Administrative Procedure Act.

The rules shall apply to all state highways on the State Highway System as defined in §43-2-101(1), C.R.S. or as determined by the Transportation Commission. These rules are based on the following statutory sections: §42-4-106(5)(b) C.R.S. (rule-making authority granted to the Transportation Commission); §42-4-106 C.R.S. (setting forth who may restrict the use of highways); §43-2-101(1) C.R.S. (defining State Highway System); §42-4-214 C.R.S. (setting forth required visual signals on service vehicles), and §42-4-1701(4)(a)(I)(F) C.R.S. (penalties for non-compliance).