



USAG Italy

Safety Gram

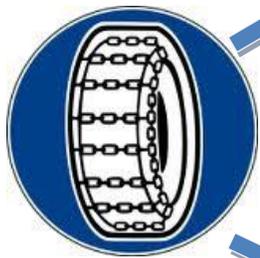


## Snow chains or winter tires M+S in Italy

The Italian "Codice della Strada" allows to the owners of the road to provide, by **ordinance**, the requirement for vehicles to equip themselves or keep snow chains on board (so-called anti-skid means) or winter tires suitable for driving on snow or ice.

- The ordinances are applied to along all the Autostrade and along some local roads. The ordinances are available at the official web site of **Polizia di Stato** <http://www.poliziadistato.it> in the specific section: [http://img.poliziadistato.it/docs/Ordinanze%20catene\\_pneumatici%20invernali%202013\\_2014%20vers.3.pdf](http://img.poliziadistato.it/docs/Ordinanze%20catene_pneumatici%20invernali%202013_2014%20vers.3.pdf)
- The ordinances are valid from November 2014 to April 2015 or as otherwise specified in the ordinance, even though no snowfall is in progress.
- The traffic police ensure compliance with the ordinances for the entire sections of road and for the time frame indicated by the requirements. Police check the presence of snow chains or winter tires, in case of absence, the financial penalty imposed is 80 to 318 EUR.

Every time you take a road with the ordinance or meet the following sign which informs about the ordinance, vehicles must be equipped with or have on board anti-skid means or winter tires suitable for driving on snow or ice.



Snow chains

Winter tires

Studded tires

If you don't want to change your summer tires, you must keep on board snow chains\*

or **alternatively**

You must mount winter tires M+S

or **alternatively**

You must mount studded tires must be IAW Circ. Min. n. 58/71



\* Make sure you know how to install the chains prior to driving on snowy roads

And in other countries?



	Italy 	Austria 	Germany 
<b>Season</b>	15 November - 15 April	1 November - 15 April	At any time
<i>Winter tires M+S</i>	With blue sign (or alternatively snow chains)	If there's actually snow, slush or ice on the road	If there's actually snow, slush or ice on the road
<i>Snow chains</i>	With blue sign (or alternatively winter tires M+S)	Mandatory with blue sign	Mandatory with blue sign
<i>Studded tires</i>	Authorized with limitation	Authorized	Prohibited with exception within 15 km zone to Austrian border.



# USAG Italy

## Safety FAQ



### What does this sign mean in Italy?

The sign means you must have snow chains (on board) to be mounted on drive wheels **OR** 4 winter tires M+S are mounted on vehicle.

### If I have winter tires M+S, I need also the snow chains?

No it is not mandatory, but it is recommended if you are driving on some mountains roads.

### If I didn't mount M+S snow tires, could I receive a ticket/fine?

Only if you are driving on a road with the blue sign or you don't have a set of snow chains in the vehicle.

### How can I plan my journey to identify roads with the blue sign?

Visit the site [http://img.poliziadistato.it/docs/Ordinanze%20catene\\_pneumatici%20invernali%202013\\_2014%20vers.3.pdf](http://img.poliziadistato.it/docs/Ordinanze%20catene_pneumatici%20invernali%202013_2014%20vers.3.pdf) for local roads and in all Italian highway (autostrada).

### When do I have to mount winter tires M+S or keep snow chains in the vehicle?

Usually from 15 November to 15 April, although local regulation (ordinanza) can extend the time frame from November 1 to April 30, especially in mountain areas.

### How do I recognize winter tires, M+S?

Winter tires are earmarked by MS, or M+S, or M-S, or M&S (Mud and Snow).

### What do the pictograms "snowflakes" and "three peak mountain" after M+S mean?

This means the tires are specific for winter season. Tires without pictogram are called "all season".

### If my winter tires M+S are without pictogram, can I receive a ticket?

No, IAW Road Code, the pictogram is not mandatory; the stamp M+S is enough.

### What are the safer tires?

The M + S tires with the pictogram are strongly recommended.

### On which wheels should I mount the snow chains?

On the driving wheels.

### What should I check when I buy snow chains?

If chains fit the size of the car's tires and if they have been made IAW UNI 11313 or ONORM V5117.

### Can I drive a 4x4 car without winter tires M + S or have on board snow chains?

No, all cars with four-wheel drive should be equipped with appropriate anti-skid means (winter tires M+S or snow chains).

### If my car doesn't allow me to mount snow chains, what must I do?

You must mount winter tires M+S on your vehicle.

### Are studded tires allowed in Italy?

Yes, but you have to follow the rules listed in **Cir. Min. n. 58/71**

### Can I use snow socks?

No you can't, not certified IAW UNI 11313 or ONORM V5117.

### What are the differences between Italy and other countries?

The blue sign in Italy indicates snow chains requirement or alternatively winter tires M+S. In Germany and Austria the blue sign indicates ONLY chains requirement.

**Austria** requires winter tires M+S during the time frame 1 November through 15 April (if there's actually snow, slush or ice on the road), only. Anytime you see the blue sign you may proceed only if you install snow chains. Studded tires are authorized in Austria.

**Germany** requires winter tires M+S at any time when there's ice, snow or slush on the road. Anytime you see the blue sign you may proceed only if you install snow chains. Studded tires are prohibited except within 15 km of the Austrian border.

**Switzerland** has no general winter tires requirement like in Germany or Austria; winter tires are recommended in case of changing road conditions.



For further information please contact **INSTALLATION SAFETY OFFICE**  **DSN 634-8109/7045**

 **DSN 634-8023**