

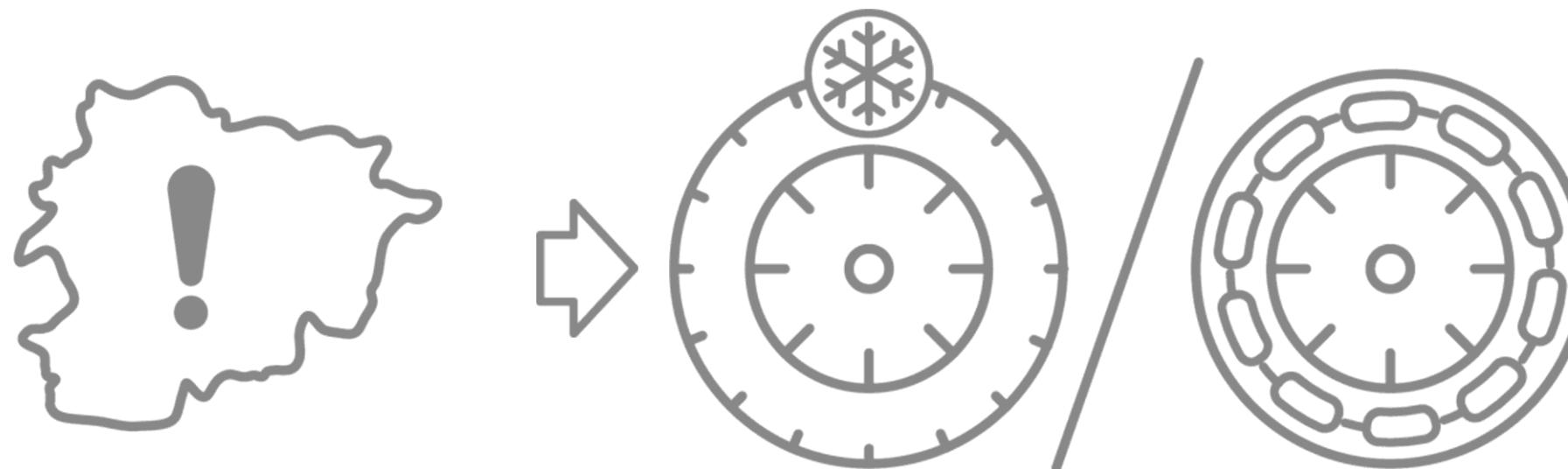
Winter Mobility

Guide with good practices for safe winter travel



Winter Mobility

In winter, negative temperatures, the risk of frost, snow on the roadway and the significant reduction in daylight are circumstances that every road user must anticipate in order to travel safely.

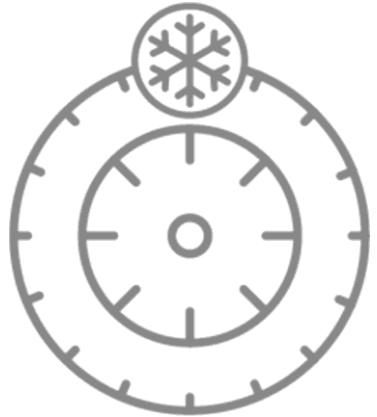


For this reason, from 1 November to 15 May, special equipment is mandatory across the entire road network of the Principality of Andorra. The aim is to optimise safety and ensure smooth traffic flow in situations where the roadway is partially or completely covered with snow or ice.



1

PREPARE THE VEHICLE FOR WINTER CONDITIONS.



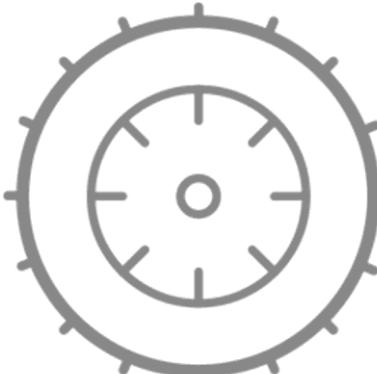
WINTER TYRES

These tyres are suitable for all winter conditions as they improve traction and braking performance. It is essential to equip all four wheels in order to maintain a good level of grip. It is recommended that the tread depth should not be less than 3 mm; a worn tyre results in a significant loss of grip.



SNOW CHAINS

There are different types of snow chains. Whether textile or metal, they should only be fitted when the road surface is covered with snow. Chains must be fitted to the driving wheels and, once installed, a maximum speed of 50 km/h must be respected. It should be noted that there are different sizes to fit different wheel rims and tyre dimensions and, therefore, not all chains are suitable for every vehicle. It is advisable to practise fitting the chains before driving. To fit them, the vehicle must be parked in a designated area.



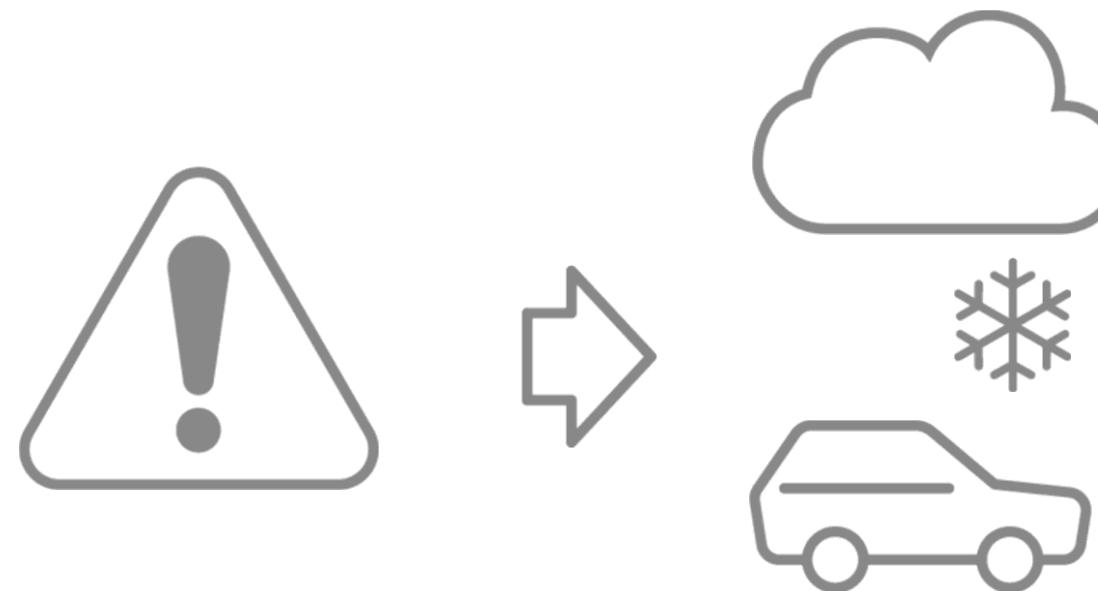
STUDDED TYRES

In the specific case of studded tyres, their use is authorised only from 1 November to 15 May. The dimensions and shape of the studs may be determined by the competent authority.



2

CHECK THE WEATHER FORECAST AND TRAFFIC CONDITIONS



Before setting off, it is essential to check the condition of the roads and traffic, as well as weather conditions, on the official websites such as www.meteo.ad and www.mobilitat.ad. Real-time information can also be followed via the Mobilitat app and on Twitter [@Mobilitat_AND](https://twitter.com/Mobilitat_AND). In the car, tune in to Ràdio Nacional d'Andorra on 94.2 FM.



www.mobilitat.ad



www.meteo.ad

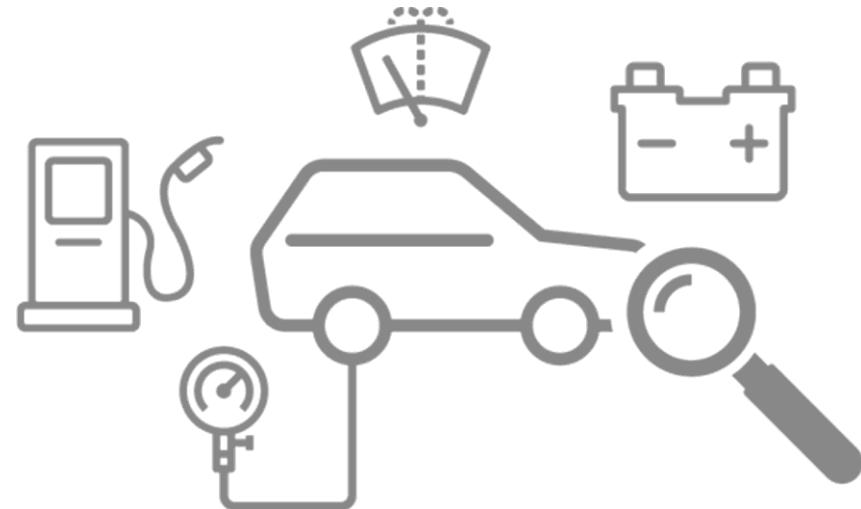


www.rtva.ad



3

VEHICLE PREPARATION AND DRIVING PRACTICES.



REGARDING THE VEHICLE

In winter, it is necessary to regularly check the pressure of all four tyres. The lower the outside temperature, the lower the measured pressure will be. An additional 0.2 bar should be added to the recommended cold pressure. Furthermore, the battery, the ignition system and the power supply are components that are sensitive to cold and should be checked before setting off. It is also necessary to check the level of antifreeze fluid and the condition of the windscreen wipers, whose effectiveness deteriorates under freezing conditions.



REGARDING DRIVING

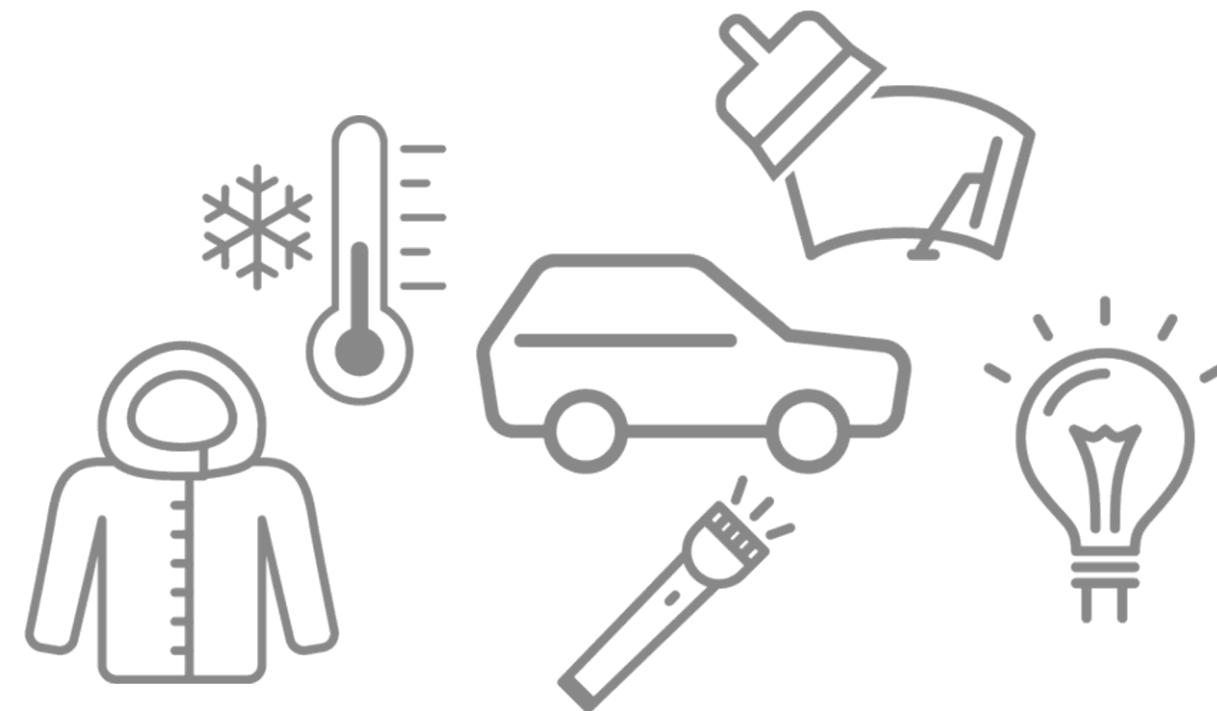
In cold weather, it is necessary to take extra precautions at the wheel and reduce speed. On roads with ice or snow, the safety distance should be increased. Accelerating or braking abruptly can cause a loss of control of the vehicle. Dipped headlights should be switched on as soon as it gets dark. Furthermore, a snowplough that is carrying out its work must never be overtaken. Finally, in the extreme case that the road becomes impassable due to snow, the vehicle should be stopped in a safe place and, if necessary, emergency services should be contacted.



4

CARRY EQUIPMENT TO DEAL WITH COLD WEATHER.

Driving in freezing temperatures means being exposed to a number of difficult situations. Therefore, it is very wise to carry additional accessories that can be extremely useful: an ice scraper to remove ice from the windscreen, a cloth to clean fogged-up windows and dirty headlights, spare bulbs, a torch and warm clothing. It is also advisable to wear comfortable footwear so that the feet can properly feel the pedals.



5

KNOWING THE SNOW COLOUR CODES.



YELLOW PHASE

Snow on the road

- a) The use of winter tyres or special equipment is mandatory.
Driving at speeds over 60 km/h is not permitted.
- b) Speed must be reduced, especially on bends and sloping sections.
- c) Sudden manoeuvres must be avoided and the safety distance increased.
- d) The circulation of motorcycles, mopeds and PMVs (personal mobility vehicles) is prohibited.



ORANGE PHASE

Dangerous road. Ice on the roadway

- a) The use of snow chains is mandatory for all vehicles over 3,500 kg. Driving at speeds over 50 km/h is not permitted.
- b) Articulated vehicles are advised not to circulate.
- c) Speed must be reduced, especially on bends and sloping sections.
- d) Sudden manoeuvres must be avoided and the safety distance increased.
- e) The journey must not be continued if weather conditions worsen or if the necessary equipment (snow chains, warm clothing, etc.) is not available.





RED PHASE

Road in very adverse conditions

- a) The use of snow chains is mandatory for all vehicles.* Driving at speeds over 30 km/h is not permitted.
- b) The circulation of goods transport vehicles over 19,000 kg is prohibited.
- c) If it is not an essential journey, travel should be postponed.
- d) Vehicles must not stop on slopes or in places where they could obstruct traffic.
- e) Overtaking immobilised vehicles is not permitted unless it is certain that the journey can be continued.

* Vehicles used for winter road maintenance and emergency services (ambulances, fire brigade, etc.) are exempt from the obligation to use snow chains.



BLACK PHASE

Impassable road

- a) There is a risk of becoming stranded on the road for long periods of time.
- b) In the event of immobilisation, fuel should be conserved and the vehicle should not be abandoned unless it is certain that shelter can be found.
- c) The vehicle must not be left in a place where it could hinder the passage of snowploughs.
- d) Traffic is prohibited.**

** Vehicles used for winter road maintenance and emergency services are exempt.

