



# DRIVE RESPONSIBLY, ARRIVE SAFELY!

Advice for driving in wintry conditions

We wish you a safe and comfortable journey!



**HRVATSKE  
AUTOCESTE**

## WHAT ARE WINTRY ROAD CONDITIONS?

The road conditions are considered to be wintry when there is snow, ice, slush or frost. In wintry conditions vehicles without proper winter equipment and vehicles with trailers are not allowed on roads.



## WHAT IS WINTER EQUIPMENT AND WHEN IS IT MANDATORY?

In the Republic of Croatia winter equipment is mandatory on public roads with winter weather conditions from 15 November to 15 April. Winter equipment for vehicles < 3.5t GVW are four winter tyres (M+S) or four standard tyres with a min. 4 mm tread depth and snow chains for drive axle.



**Driving without winter equipment is dangerous for you and other participants in traffic!**

## WHAT IS A SERVICEABLE CARRIAGEWAY?

Motorway can be fully serviceable only when there is no more precipitation, and a thin snow cover on the carriageway does not mean that the carriageway is not cleared; it means that after the snow ploughing a new thin cover of snow fell. A road does not need to be "black" to be safe and serviceable.

# ADVICE FOR DRIVING IN WINTRY CONDITIONS

**CONDITIONS ON ROADS** – listen to the traffic reports on HR2 radio frequency, and before going on a trip check out the road conditions on web page of Croatian Automobile Club [www.hak.hr](http://www.hak.hr) or using their mobile app.

**TRAFFIC SIGNS** – traffic signs shall be constantly scanned and obeyed during driving (both static and dynamic) in order to adjust to road conditions and to maintain road safety.



**SNOW PLOUGH** – if you encounter a snow plough, you should drive behind it and not overtake. In abundant snowfall snow ploughs on motorways operate in the so called battery formation (two snow ploughs per traffic way) and cannot be overtaken. Do not forget to keep safe distance to a snow plough and be patient. They are there for your safety!

**BRIDGES AND VIADUCTS** – pay special attention when crossing viaducts and bridges on motorways. Microclimatic conditions make them cold faster, and therefore driving speed needs to be adjusted to wintry conditions.



**FOG** – when driving in fog, remember to turn on your fog lights (if your vehicle has them fitted) or dipped beam headlights. Drive closer to the edge of the carriageway, slow down, avoid sudden braking and maintain safe distance to the vehicle in front.

**BORA WINDS** – when driving in high winds drivers must be completely focused on driving, adjust the driving speed to the conditions on road and carefully operate their vehicle.



When the bora gust pushes the vehicle to a side, the driver should keep their vehicle straight with a slight manoeuvring of the steering wheel because in case of a sudden turning of wheel the “S” effect happens and the car starts wandering on the road surface. If you plan to travel on wind struck sections, avoid strapping cargo to your car’s roof.

**AQUAPLANING** – happens when water builds up in front of your tyres faster than the weight of your vehicle is able to displace it. The result is that the water pressure pushes under the tyre, creating a thin layer of water between the rubber and the road surface. If you see it happen, gradually slow down and avoid sudden braking because it causes front wheels to lock up.



**QUEUES** – when driving in queues maintain a safe distance to the vehicle in front, avoid sudden braking and stopping. If you have to stop, make sure you give a signal to other drivers by using your hazard warning lights.





**STARTING** – when starting in wintry conditions release clutch gently and gradually accelerate. In the event of slipping, do not panic, but continue releasing the clutch until you start moving.

**SPEED** – in wintry conditions driving speed should be adjusted to the conditions on road, the gear box should be adjusted to the highest revolution speed to avoid the tyre slipping. Gradually speed up to best avoid the tyre slipping.

**DISTANCE** – to be able to safely stop the vehicle at any time it is necessary to maintain sufficient distance to the vehicle in front. Adjust the distance to the conditions on the carriageway!

**BRAKING** – Due to lower wheel grip the stopping time in wintry conditions may be ten times longer than when driving under dry road conditions, so you should brake sooner. When you feel the brake pedal pulse due to braking with ABS, do not release, but hold the same pressure on the pedal. Before driving, make sure that all stability control systems (ABS, ESP, ESR itd..) are switched on.

**UPHILL AND DOWNHILL DRIVING** – When driving downhill or uphill, select the correct gears at the right time and reduce the speed to ensure optimum grip on the road surface and maintain control over the vehicle.

**SUNSHINE** – in winter the Sun is very low on the horizon, and in combination with the snow glare it can temporarily “blind” the driver. Lower the sun shield to the windshield and have your sunglasses at hand.

**STOPPING** – If for any reason you have to stop on a motorway, wear a reflective vest and set a safety triangle to mark the stopped vehicle at a prescribed distance. Call +3851 2900 312 or 112 for technical assistance on the road (24/7). Check the exact location (chainage) on the motorway by checking the numbers on the signs on the guardrail. Do not leave the vehicle, and wait for help.



# HOW TO PREPARE YOUR VEHICLE FOR WINTRY CONDITIONS?

**REGULAR SERVICE INSPECTIONS** – in order to prepare a vehicle for wintry conditions, it is recommended to perform a service inspection in order for qualified persons to determine the vehicle battery status, engine ignition spark plugs, antifreeze quality and quantity, wiper blade status, vehicle signalization, tyre condition and other factors which affect the safety of driving your vehicle.

**FUEL AND GLASS WASHING LIQUID** – Keep the fuel tank full at least halfway through the winter months. This will reduce the possibility of freezing fuel and increase the engine running time in case you stay longer in traffic due to weather conditions. The same goes for glass washing liquid, which is quickly consumed during winter conditions. The same goes for glass washing liquid, which is quickly consumed during winter conditions. Use the winter glass washing liquid to avoid freezing and cracking of the liquid container.

**CLEAN WINDOWS AND CAR** – keep brush, ice scraper and a windscreen cleaning cloth in your car, and before starting to drive, clean off your car, brush the snow off, clear steamed up glass and remove ice.



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