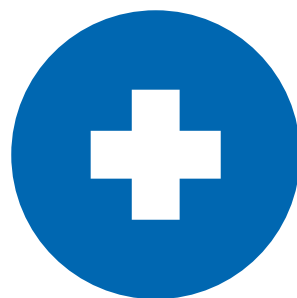
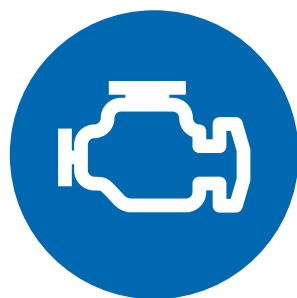
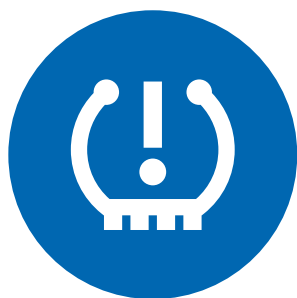
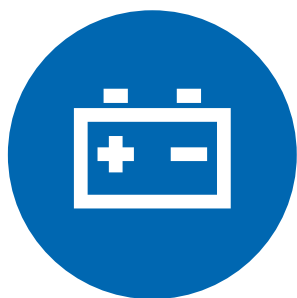


# Winter Checklist for Drivers and Transport Operators

Before the winter season



## Electrical parts

### Drive belt

- ✓ Inspect the drive belt for any cracks or worn rubber (a drive belt can crack under extreme temperatures).
- ✓ Check the belt tension (a loose belt can reduce alternator output and run down batteries).

### Electrical connections

- ✓ Check the electrical connections between the vehicle and the trailer.

### Battery

- ✓ Check battery charging, as cold weather starts make the vehicle battery work much harder.

### Alternator

- ✓ Check the charging rate of the alternator when the system is under full load with all equipment switched on.

## Tyres

### Winter tyres

- ✓ Use winter tyres bearing the marks M+S, M.S or M&S (they offer better traction and handling in a variety of winter conditions, especially when driving in mud and snow).
- ✓ Fit winter tyres at least on the drive axle (check national requirements).

### Tyre pressure

- ✓ Correctly inflate tyres for better grip, braking distance and handling (cold winter temperatures typically reduce tyre pressure).
- ✓ Follow the recommended pressure mentioned in the owner manual.

## Fluids

### Radiator

- ✓ Inspect the condition of the radiator, the hoses and the opening and/or closing of the thermostat.

### Antifreeze

- ✓ Refill antifreeze if necessary, using the antifreeze ratio recommended by the manufacturer.
- ✓ Use a tester to check the fluid for its freeze point while the engine is cold.

### Windscreen washer fluid

- ✓ Use a windscreen washer fluid that does not freeze in low temperatures.

### Fluid levels of power-trains

- ✓ Use high quality power-trains oil (effective in protecting the motor and running gears in cold start situations).

### Oil and oil filter

- ✓ Use the oil recommended by the vehicle manufacturer and check the oil level manually.

### Air dryer cartridge

- ✓ Replace if necessary.

### Water separator

- ✓ Drain the water separator in the fuel system.

## Miscellaneous equipment

### In case of incident/accident

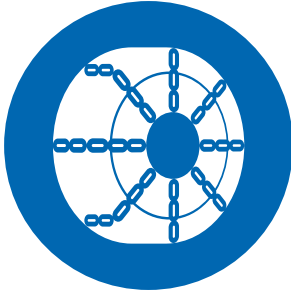
- ✓ Always carry a first aid kit, a map, an ice-scraper, a snow brush, a torch, warning triangles, flares, a tow rope and jump leads, a shovel, a bag of sand, a blanket, winter gloves and a mobile phone.

### Auxiliary cab heating system

- ✓ Check the system works correctly.

## During the winter season

Drivers should exercise extra care when driving on snow and icy roads!



### Tyres

- ✓ A minimum tyre tread for tyres is required (check national requirements).
- ✓ Make sure that the vehicle is equipped with appropriate snow chains.



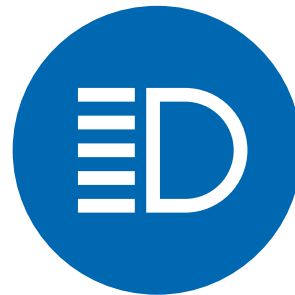
### Cleaning

- ✓ Clear all snow and ice from your vehicle. This will help avoid sheets of ice flying off the vehicle and creating difficulties for vehicles behind.



### Visibility

- ✓ Keep the windscreen, washers, mirrors and lights clean and clear of snow and ice.
- ✓ Make sure that your wiper blades are in good condition to fully clear your windscreen. Road salt and slush can inhibit visibility.



### Lighting

- ✓ Check all lighting systems, headlights for both dipped and full beam, indicators and rear lights, which must not be obstructed by snow and ice.



### Air intake

- ✓ Keep air intake grilles free of leaves, snow and ice, remembering also the air intake for your heating system.

*This checklist is provided to you by the **IRU Academy**, the training arm of the **International Road Transport Union (IRU)**.*

*See our training programmes on [www.iru.org/academy](http://www.iru.org/academy)*