I-90 Snoqualmie Pass: Winter Chain Laws, Avalanche Controls, and Automatic OSOW Prohibitions

Pillar: The Corridors | **Basis:** Agency Regulation | **Primary Source:** WSDOT Commercial Vehicles / Mountain Passes | **As Of:** 2026-11-16

Every truck moving test hardware between Puget Sound and Moses Lake crosses I-90 Snoqualmie Pass—where WSDOT automatically prohibits special-permit oversize/overweight loads whenever chain or traction restrictions activate.

Operational Continuity & Corridor Facts

• WSDOT OSOW permit rules strictly prohibit special-permit oversize/overweight movements whenever mountain-pass signs indicate traction or chain requirements.

• When Snoqualmie Pass posts 'Chains required on vehicles over 10,000 GVW' or similar snow/ice restrictions, oversize aerospace loads must park and wait until restrictions lift.

• WSDOT also conducts scheduled winter avalanche-control closures on I-90, halting all commercial traffic.

I-90 Snoqualmie Pass Operational Matrix

Pass Condition	Standard Freight	Special-Permit OSOW	Dispatch Action
No Restrictions	Open	Permitted (subject to curfew)	Normal transit to Moses Lake
Traction / Chain Law Active	Open with chains	PROHIBITED	Stage at North Bend / Cle Elum
Avalanche Control / Closure	CLOSED	CLOSED	Hold at origin or wait out

Corridor Exposure, Triggers & Facility Actions

• Winter test campaigns at Moses Lake (such as Stoke Space testing) face multi-day road delays if oversize hardware moves without weather buffers.

• Never schedule just-in-time winter OSOW hardware deliveries across I-90 without a pre-identified heated/secure staging yard.

• Monitor WSDOT real-time mountain pass feeds 24 hours prior to release.

Cross-Cluster Links & Primary Sources

• **WA Space Cluster Hub (#1382):** https://bcesg.org/washington-space-cluster-census/

• **Moses Lake WA Space Cluster Profile:** https://bcesg.org/moses-lake-wa-space-cluster-profile/

• **Kent WA Space Cluster Profile:** https://bcesg.org/kent-wa-space-cluster-profile/

• **Stoke Space WA Profile:** https://bcesg.org/stoke-space-washington-space-cluster-profile/

• **Program Manager Desk Brief:** https://bcesg.org/wa-space-role-program-manager-desk-brief/

• **WSDOT Real-Time Mountain Passes:** https://wsdot.com/travel/real-time/mountainpasses

• **WSDOT Commercial Vehicles & OSOW:** https://wsdot.wa.gov/travel/commercial-vehicles

• **Port of Moses Lake (Grant County MWH):** https://www.portofmoseslake.com/

Provenance Note: WSDOT pass and OSOW permit rules verified against WSDOT Commercial Vehicles and Mountain Passes portals.