

## Subject: Euro look – tyre and wheel compatibility

Issued: 20<sup>th</sup> May 2010

Reviewed:

The BTMA is becoming increasingly concerned at the number of cars on British roads where the tyres fitted are too narrow for the wheel rim widths or conversely the wheel rims are too wide for the tyres. (Often referred to as the “Euro Look”) This trend is believed to be a fashion statement, but leads to serious risks in road safety.

All tyres are designed with an optimum wheel rim width, with an allowable tolerance either side of this e.g.

### Tyre Size: **205/55R16**

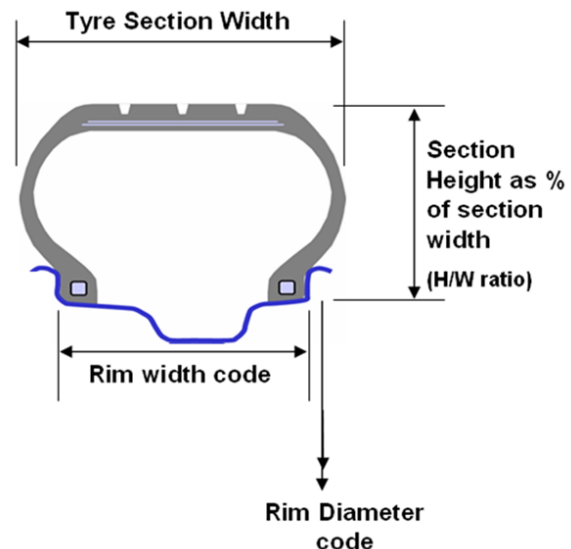
Tyre Section width: 205mm

Section H/W Ratio: 55%

Rim Diameter code: 16

### Optimum Rim Width code: **6.5**

### Permitted Rim Widths: **5.5 to 7.5**



### Tyre Size: **195/65R15**

Tyre Section width: 195mm

Section H/W Ratio: 65%

Rim Diameter code: 15

### Optimum Rim Width code: **6.0**

### Permitted Rim Widths: **5.5 to 7.0**

***Deviation from the permitted rim widths causes distortion in the tyre beyond its designed safe capability.***

The tyre in this illustration is stretched onto a rim which is too wide, causing excessive distortion of the tyre sidewall. This is potentially very dangerous and could lead to a premature tyre failure. There is also a real risk of the tyre being easily dislodged from the wheel rim.



Consumers are urged to consult a tyre expert or the relevant tyre manufacturer before changing tyre and wheel sizes to ensure compatibility of the two components for the vehicle application.

**Note:** A change to the original vehicle specification could invalidate your motor insurance. Consult with your motor insurer prior to any vehicle modification.

The comments in this Position Statement are based on the general operating practices and environment found in the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland. No undertaking express or implied is given regarding the applicability of these comments to other operating environments. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise, without the prior permission in writing of the publisher.

Although great care has been taken in the compilation and preparation of this Position Statement to ensure accuracy, the publisher cannot in any circumstances accept responsibility for errors or omissions or advice given in this publication.