

## Subject: Tyre service life recommendations

Issued: 9<sup>th</sup> June 2010

Reviewed:

---

### For Car, 4x4, Van and Light Truck Tyres Including Spare Tyres

The serviceability of a tyre over time is a function of the storage conditions (temperature, humidity, position etc.) and service operating conditions (load, speed, inflation pressure, road hazard damage, climatic conditions, terrain, etc.) to which a tyre is subjected throughout its life.

Since these conditions vary widely, accurately predicting the serviceable life of a tyre in advance is not possible. The longer the tyre has been in service, the greater the chance that it will need to be replaced, due to service-related deterioration, or other conditions found upon inspection or detected during use.

### Frequent User and Specialist Tyre Inspection

There are a number of reasons for removal of tyres from a vehicle including; tread pattern worn down to minimum legal depth; signs of damage (cuts, cracks, bulges etc) or signs of adverse service conditions (underinflation, overloading etc).

Hence, it is recommended to have all tyres inspected regularly. A monthly maintenance inspection should be performed by the consumer, checking for correct inflation pressure, and tread wear, which should be supplemented by a regular check of the tyre condition to determine if there are any tactile or visual signs indicating that replacement is necessary.

The tyre retailer will support the consumer's role by assisting with checks as required (normally free of charge), at the same time advising on tyre repositioning, balancing, and alignment. Tyres which have been in use for a number of years should be regularly inspected by a tyre specialist (at least annually).

### Driver Awareness of Tyre Condition

Consumers are strongly encouraged to be aware not only of their tyres' visual condition and inflation pressure, but also to be aware if there is any change in dynamic performance such as significant air loss, noise or vibration, which could be an indication that the tyre should be removed from service to maintain vehicle safety.

Advice on a tyre's suitability for further use can be obtained from the tyre retailer or manufacturer.

### Tyre date of manufacture

The date when a tyre was manufactured is marked on one or both sidewalls (near to the wheel rim) of each tyre. Consumers should locate the code on the tyre which begins with the letters DOT and ends with the week and year of manufacture.

E.g. a DOT number ending in **2205** means the tyre was manufactured in the 22<sup>nd</sup> week (May) of 2005.

Tyre retailers will offer support in case of doubt or difficulty.

### Replacement of Original Tyres (OE) on a Vehicle

Follow the vehicle manufacturer's tyre replacement recommendations where specified (often found in the vehicle hand book). If in doubt, consult the vehicle or tyre manufacturer.

---

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.