

## Service Life for Passenger Car and Light Truck Tyres, including Spare Tyres

The following recommendation applies to passenger car tyres and to light truck tyres marked with a suffix C or CP or LT in the size designation.

Consumers are always primarily responsible for the general care and maintenance of their tyres. They must determine when a tyre has to be replaced. Consumers should take into account that tyres are composed of various types of material and rubber compounds, having performance properties essential to the proper functioning of the tyre itself. These tyre properties evolve over time. For each tyre, this evolution depends upon many elements such as weather, storage conditions, and conditions of use (load, speed, inflation pressure, maintenance, etc.) to which the tyre is subjected throughout its life. This service-related evolution varies widely so that accurately predicting the serviceable life of any specific tyre in advance is not possible.

That it is why, in addition to regular inspections and inflation pressure maintenance by consumers, it is recommended to have passenger car and light truck tyres, including spare tyres, inspected regularly by a qualified tyre specialist, such as a tyre dealer, who will assess the tyre's suitability for continued service. Tyres which have been in use for 5 years or more should continue to be inspected by a specialist at least annually.

Consumers are strongly encouraged to be aware not only of their tyres' visual condition and inflation pressure but also of any change in dynamic performance such as increased air loss, noise or vibration, which could be an indication that the tyres need to be removed from service to prevent tyre failure.

It is impossible to predict when tyres should be replaced based on their calendar age alone. However, the older a tyre the greater the chance that it will need to be replaced due to the service-related evolution or other conditions found upon inspection or detected in use.

While most tyres will need replacement before they achieve 10 years, it is recommended that any tyres in service older than 10 years from the date of manufacture, including spare tyres, be replaced with new tyres as a simple precaution even if such tyres appear serviceable and even if they have not reached the legal wear limit. This recommendation does not in any way reduce the consumers' responsibility to change tyres when appropriate.

For tyres that were on an original equipment vehicle (i.e., acquired by the consumer on a new vehicle), follow the vehicle manufacturer's tyre replacement recommendations, when specified (but not to exceed 10 years).

#### How to identify the tyre date of manufacture

The date of manufacture can be easily identified by examining the serial number located on the tyre sidewall.

The serial number is an alphanumeric code composed by 11 digits, which is usually, but not always, preceded by the acronym "DOT". The last four digits of the serial number refer to the date of manufacture.

As shown below, the first two numbers indicate the week of manufacture (which range from "01" to "52"), while the last two numbers indicate the year of manufacture.

For tyres manufactured prior to the year 2000, the year of manufacture is represented by 1 digit instead of 2 (i.e. 189 would represent the 18th week of 1999).

During the 1990 – 2000 decade some tyres were marked with a triangle pointing to the last digit of the serial number in order to distinguish them from previous decades.



August 2008 recommendation (superseding 2006 recommendation)