EU's new tyre labelling regulation

Safety, savings, and environmental efficiency

- The new EU regulation (EC/1222/2009) entering into force on 1 November 2012 defines the requirements for tyre labelling concerning fuel efficiency, wet grip, and external rolling noise.

- The aim is to improve road safety, eco-friendliness, and economic efficiency by promoting the use of fuel-efficient and safe tyres that cause as little noise as possible.

- The regulation allows consumers to make an informed purchase decision when comparing tyres based on their usual selection criteria, along with the classification information provided by the decree.

- Consumers must also be informed that while rolling resistance, wet grip, and external rolling noise are important, they are not the only characteristics of tyre performance. They also need to be informed as to how driving styles and correct tyre pressure significantly affect the actual fuel savings and road safety.

- These new labels will guide consumers towards acquiring tyres that are of higher quality and, therefore, safer. The regulation applies to summer tyres and friction tyres, but not to studded tyres. The labels do not take into account grip on ice.

Tyre labels

Fuel Efficiency
A to G (A is the best, G is the worst) The difference between the G and A classes may reduce fuel consumption by up to 7.5%, and even more for lorries.*

Wet grip
A to G (A means the shortest braking distance, G means the longest) At full braking, the difference between a G or A class tyre set may lead to a 30% reduction in braking distance (for example, the braking distance of a typical passenger car travelling at 80 km/h may be reduced by up to 18 m)*.

External rolling noise and noise measurement value
In addition to the noise value reported in decibels (dB(A)), the label shows if the tyre’s noise level exceeds the maximum value in the future type approval (3 black waves = noisy tyre), meets the future type approval requirements or is up to 3 dB quieter (2 black waves = average tyre), or is over 3 dB quieter than what is required by the new type approval (1 black wave = quiet tyre).*

* Effect may vary based on the vehicle or driving conditions
** External rolling noise and the noise inside the vehicle are not fully comparable

Responsibilities for retailers (sales outlets, online stores)

From 1 November 2012 onwards, all tyres manufactured after the beginning of July 2012 must have the following information on display:

1. All passenger car and van tyres on display must either have the classification label (provided by the manufacturer) attached to the tread, OR the classification information (provided by the manufacturer) must be available in printed form in their immediate vicinity.

2. Before making a sale, retailers must provide information on the fuel efficiency, wet grip and external rolling noise classes and the noise measurement level, even if the tyres are not on display.

3. The fuel efficiency, wet grip and external rolling noise class, and the noise measurement level (not bearing the image of the label, however) must be reported in the technical advertising material, such as price lists or websites.

4. The fuel efficiency, wet grip, and rolling resistance class, together with the noise measurement value, must be shown on the invoice provided for a tyre purchase, or together with it.