

Tyre Labelling a regulatory step paving the way for timely implementation

Brussels, 30 November 2011 – With a little less than one year ahead of its mandatory application, the European Commission publishes the 2nd implementing regulation (1235/2011) paving the way for an effective implementation of tyre labelling requirements.

The Regulation 1222/2009 introduces labelling requirements with regard to the display of information on the fuel efficiency, wet grip and external rolling noise of tyres. Its aim is to increase the safety and the environmental and economic efficiency of road transport by promoting fuel-efficient and safe tyres with low noise levels.

Passenger and light commercial vehicle tyres produced after June 30th, 2012 and on sale in the EU from November 2012, either will bear a sticker or will be accompanied by a label to be displayed on tyres visible by the consumer at points of sale. **For all tyres, this information must also be included on supplier web pages, brochures, price lists, on or with the invoice when the tires have been sold, etc...**

Two important implementing regulations have completed the regulatory arsenal:

- Commission Regulation 228/2011 provides the wet grip test method for passenger car tyres
- Commission Regulation 1235/2011 provides the necessary provisions for
 - o the wet grip grading of light and heavy commercial vehicle tyres,
 - o the measurement procedure of rolling resistance including laboratory alignment and
 - o the verification procedure.

The measurement of rolling resistance requires at first that the so called “laboratory alignment” is performed, to ensure that all laboratories around the world will secure comparability of the measurements. Anyhow, beyond the alignment procedure defined by the newly published Regulation 1235/2011, **the list of the reference laboratories as well as the technical details to perform the alignment are still expected to be published** in the OJEU in the very short term. Without this final document it is still not possible to perform the alignment process properly.

Each tyre type and size will have to be graded. **Voluntary early labelling** is not allowed **before 30 May 2012**.

ETRMA firmly believes that Tyre Labelling will increase interest in tyres and empower consumers and fleet owners to focus more at least on some performances when purchasing a tyre. Additionally, the measure not only will encourage tyre manufacturers to upgrade their products in a context of increased competition on the market, but will offer the possibility for producers to benefit from product differentiation, based also on product quality.

It is reminded that retreaded, off-road, temporary use-spare, studded, racing and vintage tyres are excluded from the scope of the Regulation.

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About ETRMA

The current ETRMA tyre corporate members are: Apollo Vredestein, Bridgestone Europe, Cooper Tires, Continental, Goodyear Dunlop Tires Europe, Hankook, Marangoni, Michelin, Mitas, Nokian Tyres, Pirelli and Trelleborg Wheel Systems. The Technical Rubber Producers are represented through national associations in Belgium (federplast), Finland (rmaf), France (sncp), Germany (wdk), Italy (fgp), the Netherlands (nvr) and Spain (consorcio). The industry provides direct employment for more than 360 000 people in the EU and supports another 800000 jobs in related sectors. ETRMA members' turnover in 2010 is estimated at € 46 b, of which up to 5% is invested in R&D.