

Revision of the Directive on Driving Licences

Brussels, 16th May 2023 –

The European Tyre and Rubber Manufacturer's Association (ETRMA) welcomes the Road Safety package proposal and in particular the modernised driving licence rules to make EU roads safer and simplify everyday life. Road Safety gets highest attention when it comes to tyres since they do have a unique and essential role to play being the only contact points between the vehicle and the ground. This contact area between the tyre and the road is key for vehicle stability, breaking distance as well as for fuel efficiency and overall emissions reduction. In addition, the appropriate tyre fitment with respect to tyre health and weather conditions is crucial for its performance. To this end, ETRMA has requested that the new drivers are getting sufficient training on appropriate care and use of tyres with respect to the vehicle type.

We appreciate the fact that:

- in Recital 12, the training should equip the future drivers with the relevant understanding on the impact of driving style to emissions
- annex II concerning the theory test for all vehicle categories includes understanding of the most common faults in tyres as well as relevant rules and aspects regarding the vehicle use in relation to the environment including limitation to microplastics emissions from tyre and road wear
- there is a compulsory check of general knowledge on provisions concerning categories C, CE, D and DE with regards to the principles of the construction, the fitting, correct use and care of tyres
- the skills and behaviour to be tested with regards to a random check on the condition of the tyres is extended to categories A1, A2 and A & B, B1 and BE
- in annex IV among the competences required by the driving examiner knowledge on tyres is included.

In this respect and with the aim to further strengthen this proposal, ETRMA believes that some harmonization on the basic elements of the curriculum concerning tyres and checks on the tyre knowledge should apply uniformly to the EU Union. This will help the next generation of drivers to have a solid understanding of the importance of this critical vehicle component and take the necessary steps for its fitment, predictive maintenance and change. It may encompass the following elements:

- how important is the role of tyre
- tyre dimensions & fitment according to vehicle type
- tyre pressure and its importance
- tyre tread depth
- tyre ageing
- seasonality (winter, summer, all seasons) & extreme weather conditions
- how to check quickly tyre health
- changing a wheel with tyre in case of emergency on roadside
- how to deal with info coming from TPMS (tyre pressure monitoring system) or TMS (tyre monitoring system)

Overall, ETRMA, in line with Smart and Sustainable Mobility Strategy targets, Green Deal objectives and Vision Zero – having no deaths on EU roads by 2050 – supports the Revision of the Directive on Driving Licences and its uniform enforcement across the EU territory.