

# INTRODUCTION TO THE TYRE LABELLING REGULATION

**Practical guidance for  
UK suppliers**  
April 2013

## WHY REGULATE TYRE LABELLING?

- Tyres make an important contribution to road safety and to the environmental impact of road transport. However, all tyres don't offer the same performance.
- The Regulation enables consumers to make more informed choices when buying tyres. The EU's targeted outcome is that road safety will improve and that the environmental impact of road transport will be reduced.

### What does the Regulation introduce?

- Tyres are graded according to wet grip, fuel efficiency and external noise. The presentation is based on the familiar EU energy efficiency label.

### What does the label mean in practical terms?



#### FUEL EFFICIENCY

7.5% loss of fuel economy between best and worst class for a full set of tyres fitted to an average car. Much more for trucks.



#### WET GRIP

30% shorter braking distance between best and worst class for a full set of tyres fitted to an average car.

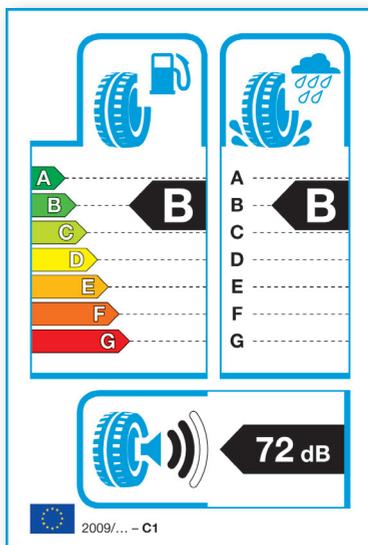
Eg 18 m shorter when braking from 50 mph.



#### EXTERNAL ROLLING NOISE

3 black bars: above future EU limit  
2 black bars: meets future EU limit  
1 black bar: at least 3 dB below the future EU limit

Note for car, 4x4 and van tyres: class D is not used so there are only 6 classes for Fuel efficiency. In addition, for Wet grip class G is also not used so there are only 5 classes for Wet grip.



## **When did the Regulation come into force?**

- Manufacturers and importers have to provide information regarding the performance of tyres they supply in the EU that were manufactured from 1st July 2012.
- Since 1st November 2012 retailers in the EU have to provide consumers with information regarding the performance of tyres offered for sale that were manufactured from 1st July 2012. (Date of production code 2712 or greater).
- NB certain tyres are exempt – see Exclusions.

## **What about tyres manufactured before 1st July 2012?**

- Operators throughout the supply chain have to manage a transition period while stocks contain tyres made both before and after 1st July 2012.
- Some manufacturers or importers may choose to label tyres made before 1st July 2012 but the Regulation does not require them to do so.
- Retrospective labelling of tyres already in the supply chain that were made before 1st July 2012 would be costly and carries potential legal risks. The labelling information relating to tyres made from 1st July 2012 may not in every case be applicable to tyres made before that date.

## **As a retailer, how can I manage all this extra information?**

- Tyre manufacturers and importers are required to provide labelling information in product catalogues and other technical documents. They must also provide labelling information on their web-sites.
- The principal software houses that support the tyre retail sector are informed of the requirements of the tyre labelling Regulation and are developing products to meet the extended needs of retailers.

<b>RESPONSIBILITIES OF SUPPLIERS OF TYRES TO RETAILERS</b>		<b>C1 &amp; C2 CAR, 4x4, VAN TYRES</b>	<b>C3 TRUCK TYRES</b>
Aligned with guidance received from the Department for Transport			
Tyres to be delivered with sticker or label	Either a sticker shall be affixed to every tyre delivered or a single label shall be provided with each batch of identical tyres delivered.	✓	
Duty to substantiate labelling information	On request manufacturers and importers are required to provide the enforcement authorities with technical information substantiating the published labelling information.	✓	✓
Provision of labelling information in publications	Manufacturers and importers must provide labelling information in their technical literature and on their web-sites. The Regulation sets out how this information must be presented.	✓	✓
Occasional lost labels or stickers	The focus of the enforcement authority will be the provision to the consumer of accurate and harmonised information in the manner required by the Regulation. Persistent or repeated failure to comply with the Regulation will be met with appropriate sanctions.	✓	
<b>DEFINITIONS</b>			
Label	The label may be supplied with each delivery of one or more identical tyres. Its design must conform with the requirements of the Regulation. It displays in graphical form the fuel efficiency class, wet grip class and external rolling noise class and measured value of the tyre.		
Sticker	The sticker is affixed to the tyre and displays the same design and information as the label plus the manufacturer's name or trade mark, the tyre line, tyre dimension, load index, speed rating and other technical specifications.		
Labelling information	The labelling information comprises the fuel efficiency class, wet grip class and external rolling noise class and measured value of the tyre.		
Point of Sale	A location where tyres are displayed or stored and offered for sale to consumers.		
<b>EXCLUSIONS</b>			
The Labelling Regulation applies to the supply of new car, 4x4, van and truck tyres with rim sizes greater than 254 and less than 635 mm. The principal exclusions are motorcycle tyres, retread tyres, T-tyre temporary use spare tyres, tyres for pre-1990 vehicles and racing tyres. The full list of exclusions is in Article 2 of the Regulation EC 1222/2009.			

<b>RETAILER'S RESPONSIBILITIES</b>		<b>C1 &amp; C2 CAR, 4x4, VAN TYRES</b>	<b>C3 TRUCK TYRES</b>
This summary is aligned with guidance received from the Department for Transport and concerns the supply and / or fitment of tyres at the Point of Sale and from mobile fitting units, breakdown assistance vehicles and the like.			
Telephone enquiry including offer to supply but without commercial outcome	To make the consumer aware of the availability of regulatory information regarding fuel efficiency, wet grip and external rolling noise and to direct them to the internet or other promotional material to view the information.	✓	✓
Telephone conversation resulting in placement of order or completion of financial transaction over the phone	Before the placement of the order or completion of the financial transaction to provide the consumer with the fuel efficiency class, wet grip class and external rolling noise class and measured value of the tyre or tyres that are the subject of the order or financial transaction.	✓	✓
Internet enquiry or sale	To provide consumers with information on the fuel efficiency class, wet grip class and external rolling noise class and measured value of the tyres offered for sale.	✓	✓
Sale of tyres at the Point of Sale	At the time of the purchasing decision either the stickers on the tyres offered for sale are visible to the consumer or the labels relating to the tyres offered for sale are shown to the consumer. <i>It is acceptable to show a facsimile of the label on a visual display accessible to the consumer providing the image meets the dimensional requirements of the Regulation.</i>	✓	
Negotiation of contract for the supply of tyres, eg fleet sale, when not at the Point of Sale	To provide the customer with information on the fuel efficiency class, wet grip class and external rolling noise class and measured value of the tyres offered for sale.	✓	✓

<b>RETAILER'S RESPONSIBILITIES CONTINUED</b>		<b>C1 &amp; C2 CAR, 4x4, VAN TYRES</b>	<b>C3 TRUCK TYRES</b>
This summary is aligned with guidance received from the Department for Transport and concerns the supply and / or fitment of tyres at the Point of Sale and from mobile fitting units, breakdown assistance vehicles and the like.			
All transactions involving the supply of tyres to the consumer	To state the fuel efficiency class, the wet grip class and the external rolling noise measured value on or with bills delivered to the consumer when the tyres are purchased. In the case of a fleet contract it is sufficient to append to the invoice the said information for the tyres covered by the contract.	✓	✓
<b>SPECIFIC CASES</b>			
Supply of tyres paid for on the Internet or over the phone	No need to provide labelling information since the purchasing transaction has already been completed.	✓	✓
Tyres supplied in accordance with a pre-agreed contract eg fleet sale	Providing labelling information was given at the time that the contract was let and that the tyre supplied complies with the terms of the contract there is no requirement to provide labelling information at the time of supply. However, it is still necessary to provide the required information on consumer bills.	✓	✓
Fitment of customer's own tyre	Where the fitting service does not include the supply of tyres there is no requirement to provide labelling information.	✓	✓

**The National Measurement Office (NMO)** is the enforcement authority responsible for the European tyre and other product labelling Regulations within the UK.

NMO will work with the industry and individual businesses to ensure consumers receive consistent, accurate information about new tyres. Where non-compliance is found appropriate and proportionate actions will be taken.

The NMO welcome enquiries from businesses that need assistance or advice about the Regulations.

For further information including an online enquiry service:  
**[www.bis.gov.uk/nmo/enforcement](http://www.bis.gov.uk/nmo/enforcement)**

**The Tyre Industry Federation** provides a common platform for the following:

- British Tyre Manufacturers' Association
- Imported Tyre Manufacturers' Association
- National Tyre Distributors' Association
- Retread Manufacturers' Association
- Tyre Recovery Association

**[www.tyreindustryfederation.co.uk](http://www.tyreindustryfederation.co.uk)**

