Tyre Labelling - Frequently Asked Questions

What is the EU tyre label?

Introduced in 2012, the label provides a comparable classification of the performance of a new tyre’s fuel consumption and wet grip (on a scale from A to G) and external noise level (expressed in decibels). By using this clear and common scale, the aim of the EU tyre label is to make it easier for consumers to make an informed choice when buying new tyres. It also gives a strong incentive to tyre manufacturers to improve the performance of their products, driving innovation in the direction of making tyres quieter, more fuel efficient and safer in the wet.

The original rules (Regulation (EC) No 1222/2009) established harmonised information on tyre parameters relating to the following characteristics of tyre performances:

- The impact on vehicle fuel efficiency associated to the tyre’s rolling resistance;
- The tyre’s external noise level (expressed in decibels);
- Where applicable, the impact on vehicle safety associated to the tyre’s wet grip.

In May 2018, as part of the low carbon Mobility package, the Commission proposed a new, revised tyre labelling regulation to replace Regulation 1222/2009.

What does the label look like?

It follows the energy label concept introduced for a wide range of household appliances, such as fridges and washing machines, which is recognised by 93% of consumers around the EU. This provides a classification (from A to G) of the tyre’s performance in terms of rolling resistance, and wet grip - and noise level measured in decibels - thereby enabling consumers to compare the performance in these areas of different tyres.

What is going to be updated?

Following a detailed impact assessment of the regulation, the Commission’s May 2019 proposals seek to update the classifications, to align the design of the label with the energy label for other products and household appliances, and to include snow and ice pictograms on the label (see press statement). Once agreed, the new rules would only become applicable 18 months after the new regulation enters into force.

Do all tyres fall under the scope of the Regulation?

The rules apply only to passenger car tyres (C1 tyres), light commercial vehicle tyres (C2 tyres) and heavy vehicles tyres (C3 tyres).

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The following categories are currently excluded from the scope of the regulation: retreaded tyres, professional off-road tyres, racing tyres, studded tyres, temporary use spare tyres, tyres designed to be fitted on vehicles registered for the first time before 1 October 1990, tyres whose speed rating is less than 80 km/h, tyres whose nominal rim diameter does not exceed 254 mm or is 635 mm or more.

**How is the compliance with the tyre label regulation guaranteed?**

As with all energy labels, it is up to the manufacturers/importers to “self-declare” the classification of their products, as defined in Annex 1 of the Regulation. It is then the responsibility of the Member States, usually through national market surveillance authorities, to assess the conformity of the declared grading values. The procedure for verification is further detailed by the Commission Regulation (EU) No 1235/2011 amending the Regulation (EC) No 1222/2009.

**Who should give the information to the consumer?**

Three parties have obligations to ensure consumers are properly informed: the tyre suppliers (manufacturers or importers in Europe); the tyre distributors; the vehicle suppliers and distributors.

**Tyre suppliers:**

– For passenger and light commercial vehicles tyres, the tyre suppliers have the choice of either putting a sticker on the tyre tread or a label accompanying each delivery of batch of tyres to the dealer and to the end-user.

– For passenger car, light commercial vehicles and truck/bus tyres, the information must be available in technical promotional literature (leaflets, brochures, etc), including the manufacturer website.

**Tyre distributors:**

– Must ensure that tyres, at the point of sale, bear the sticker or have a label in their close proximity which is shown to the end-user before the sale.

– Must give the information on the fuel efficiency, wet grip (where applicable) and external noise during the purchase process if the tyres offered for sale are not visible to the end-user (for passenger and light commercial vehicles tyres).

– Must give the information on or with the bill (for passenger car, light commercial vehicles and truck/bus tyres).

**Vehicle suppliers & distributors:**

– Shall, when a choice is offered between different tyres, provide end-users with information on the fuel efficiency, wet grip (where applicable) and external noise of the tyre type(s) that are offered, before the sale of the vehicle (for passenger car, light commercial vehicles and truck/bus tyres).