

TIRE IDENTIFICATION AND RECORDKEEPING

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) "Tire Identification and Recordkeeping Regulation" has been revised. Effective July 2, 2000, all tires used domestically must adopt the new 4-digit date code. January 1, 2000, was the effective date for tires used in Europe.

Previously, the Regulation required a 3-digit date code; the first two numbers specified the week of production, while the third number indicated the year. With the old system, the numbers repeated every ten years. This caused confusion at times, particularly with some tire designs that may not have changed during a 10 year span.

Under the new Regulation, the first two symbols must identify the week of the year by using "01" for the first full calendar week in each year, "02" for the second full calendar week and so on. The final week of each year may include not more than 6 days of the following year. The last two symbols must identify the year. For example, 0101 means the first full calendar week of 2001, or the week of January 7 through 13, 2001.

According to the new specifications, the minimum size of the date code may be reduced from 6mm (1/4") to 4mm (5/32"). This allows the figures to fit the same space as the old 3-digit code. Although 4mm is the minimum size, there is no limit to how large the figures can be.

This new Tire Identification Regulation brings the U.S. into harmony with the United Nations' Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) and the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) Recommended Practice.

TRUCK TIRE RETREAD MARKINGS AS REQUIRED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

R	XXX	XX	XXX	0101	RSF2
Indicates Retread	Manufacturer 3-Digit Identification Mark	Tire Size 2-Digit (Mold/Chamber) Identification Mark	Tire Type Code (Optional)	Date of Manufacture (Week/Year) Identification Mark	Required for retreads in California only*

* *RS indicates retread was produced under Industry Retread Standards. The F1 or F2 symbol is required on retreaded tires for steer axle use in the state of California; F2 indicates the tire is acceptable for steer axle use and has been retreaded twice. California does not require the RS marking on passenger or truck retreads that have the original new tire DOT code intact.*

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