

*Supporting and protecting you*

## Motor Vehicle Tyres Safety Regulations

The Motor Vehicle Tyres (Safety) Regulations 1994 came into force on 1st June 1995 and make provisions for the supply of new, retreaded and part-worn tyres.

**This guidance, however, is limited to the requirements for the supply of retreaded and non-retreaded part-worn tyres.**

### 1. Main Legal Requirements

In general, the above Regulations provide that it is a criminal offence to supply, agree to supply, expose for supply or possess for supply a part-worn tyre, whether retreaded or not, unless the following requirements are met;

#### **a) Cuts and Faults**

A part-worn tyre must **not** have:-

- any cut larger than 25 millimetres or 10 per cent of the section width of the tyre, whichever is the greater, measured in any direction on the outside of the tyre and deep enough to reach the ply or cord;
- any internal or external lump, bulge or tear caused by the separation or partial failure of its structure; or
- any of the ply or cord exposed internally or externally.

To check that a tyre does not have any of the above faults it should be inflated to the highest pressure at which it is designed to operate.

The following requirements must also be met:-

- The base of any groove which showed in the original tread pattern of the tyre must be clearly visible.
- The original tread pattern must be of a depth of at least 2 millimetres across the full breadth of tread and round the entire tyre.

#### **b) Markings**

Part-worn non-retreaded tyres must bear:-

- The approval mark (E mark) which was put on when it was manufactured.
- Marks showing a speed category symbol and load-capacity index which were put on when it was manufactured.

Part-worn retreaded tyres must bear:-

- One of these marks - “BS AU 144b”, “BS AU 144c”, “BS AU 144d” or “BS AU 144e” This shows that it was retreaded to British Standards and should have been applied when retreaded.
- If the tyre bears the mark “BS AU 144e” it must also bear a speed category and load-capacity index.

**In both cases, immediately adjacent to the marks, the words “PART-WORN” in uppercase letters at least 4 millimetres high must be permanently and legibly applied to the tyre other than by hot branding or otherwise cutting into the tyre.**

### ***c) Repairs***

Any repairs to tyres must have been carried out properly to meet the requirements of BS AU 159e : 1990.

## **2. What Happens if I Don't Comply with These Requirements?**

These regulations are made under the Consumer Protection Act 1987 - the maximum penalty on summary conviction is a fine of £5000 and/or up to six months imprisonment. In addition, any offending tyres are liable to seizure and forfeiture.

Under the Road Traffic Act 1988 it is an offence if a tyre is fitted which causes the vehicle to be unroadworthy and a danger to drive, or a danger to other road users. The maximum fine for this is also £5000.

## **3. Further Information**

If you require further assistance on these requirements, or would like additional information leaflets, please contact our Business Help Desk at the address given.