

# TECHNICAL BULLETIN

## Service Life for Passenger Car and Light Truck Tires including Spare Tires

Tires are composed of various types of material and rubber compounds, having performance properties essential to the proper functioning of the tire itself. These component properties change over time. For each tire, this change depends upon many factors such as weather, storage conditions, and conditions of use (load, speed, inflation pressure, maintenance etc.) to which the tire is subjected throughout its life. This service-related evolution varies widely so that accurately predicting the serviceable life of any specific tire in advance is not possible.

That is why, in addition to regular inspections and inflation pressure maintenance by consumers, it is recommended to have passenger car and light truck tires, including spare tires inspected regularly by a qualified tire specialist, such as a tire dealer who will assess the tire's suitability for continued service. Tires which have been in use for **5** years or more should continue to be inspected by a specialist at least annually.

Consumers are strongly encouraged to be aware not only of their tire's visual condition and inflation pressure but also of any change in dynamic performance such as increased air loss, noise or vibration, which could be an indication that the tires need to be removed from service to prevent tire failure.

It is impossible to predict when tires should be replaced based on their calendar age alone. However the older a tire is, the greater the chance that it will need to be replaced due to the service-related evolution or other conditions found upon inspection or detected during use.

While most tires will need replacement before they achieve **10** years in service, it is recommended that any tires 10 years or older from the date of manufacture, including spare tires, be replaced with new tires as a precaution even if such tires appear serviceable and even if they have not reached the legal wear limit.

The vehicle manufacture may consider vehicle performance characteristics when making tire replacement recommendations. Consult your vehicle owner's manual for any information regarding tire life or replacement and follow the recommendations applicable to your vehicle.



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## Tire Manufacture Date

The Tire manufacture date is determined by examining the DOT tire identification number, also known as the DOT serial number or code, which can be found on at least one sidewall near the wheel. It may be necessary to look on both sides of the tire to find the entire serial code.

### Tires Produced Since 2000:

The last four (4) digits of the serial code identify the week and year of production. In the example below, the tire was produced in the 27<sup>th</sup> week of 2010. Another example: A tire with serial code ending in “2406” would have been produced in the 24<sup>th</sup> week of 2006.



### Tires Produced Prior to 2000:

The last three (3) digits of the serial code identify the week and year of production. In the example below, the tire was produced in the 25<sup>th</sup> week of 1996, but possibly produced in 1986. If in doubt, consult a qualified tire service professional.



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