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TECHNICAL BULLETIN

November 1, 2011

To: Authorized Kumho Tire Dealers, Associate Kumho Tire Dealers and Kumho Tire Consumers

Subject: Service Life for Passenger Car and Light Truck Tires including Spare Tires

A tire's service life over time varies widely based on many factors and therefore makes accurately predicting the service life of any specific tire in advance impossible. Storage conditions; e.g., temperature, humidity, position, etc. and service conditions; e.g., load, speed, inflation pressure, maintenance, road hazard damage, etc. to which a tire may be subjected to throughout its life, are just a few examples of such factors. Since tires are composed of various types of materials and rubber compounds that are key essentials in the make-up of a tire's performance, it is important to know that these component properties change over time the longer a tire is removed from its manufacturing date.

For these reasons, consumers are highly recommended to have their passenger car and light truck tires, including spares, regularly inspected by a tire specialist or reputable tire dealer in order to assess their tires' overall serviceability. Tires over 6 years from the manufacturing date should be continuously inspected, at least annually, in order to ensure a tire's serviceability.

A consumer is encouraged to play a role in both the regular care and maintenance of their tires. Visually inspecting a tire's condition and detecting any changes in increased air loss, vibration, tire pull or noise could be indications that a tire may need to be removed from service in order to prevent possible tire failure. Although it is impossible to accurately predict a tire's service life, the greater the chance a tire will need to be replaced the further it is removed from its manufacturing date.

Although most tires will require replacement due to their service life fulfillment before they achieve 10 years, it is recommended that consumers with tires over 10 years from the manufacturing date replace their tires with new ones, even if the tires' visual condition appear serviceable and have not reached their legal wear limit.

For tires that were supplied as Original Equipment on a vehicle (i.e., acquired by the consumer on a new vehicle) the OE vehicle manufacturer's tire replacement recommendations should be followed if specified (but not to exceed 10 years).

The Department of Transportation (DOT) code is an alphanumeric code that appears on the sidewall of the tire. The code starts with the DOT designation, followed by a series of letters and numbers. Example Code: DOT H2UI YC7L 3809. "3809" identifies the manufacturing date. The first two digits represent the week, and the last two digits represent the year. Therefore, in this example, the tire was manufactured in the 38th week of 2009.

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The DOT code is an alphanumeric code that appears on the sidewall of the tire. This code is sometimes referred to as a serial number. It's mandated by the U.S. Department of Transportation, and identifies where a tire was manufactured, specific characteristics about the tire, and its age.

The code starts with the **DOT** designation, followed by a series of letters and numbers. Here's how to read it:

DOT H2U1 YC7L 3805

"**H2**" identifies the plant that manufactured the tire.

"**U1**" is the tire size code.

"**YC7L**" is an optional code that refers to a brand, or other characteristics specific to the tire.

"**3805**" identifies the manufacturing date. The first two digits represent the week, and the last two digits represent the year. Therefore, in this example, the tire was manufactured in the 38th week of 2005.



As a general rule, you should never use tires that are more than 6 years old. The rubber in tires can degrade over time, whether in use or not.

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