

PRESS RELEASE

Retreads: type approval is urgently required

Road safety is a relevant issue, and rightly so. Safety-oriented activities are advertised almost every day.

It therefore seems incredible that retreaders should have to call out for type approval to be mandatory, whereas the legislator will not get going. Besides, the request for type approval is advocated by all sector professionals.

As a matter of fact, the UN Economic Commission for Europe enacted two regulations on type approval, Regulations 108 and 109, on June 26, 2001, with a view to making them mandatory throughout the Union, but then started working on a directive apt to regulate this issue. In the meantime several European countries mandated the regulations.

At the beginning of this year, the European Council, realizing how important road safety was, decided to emend the 2001 resolution and mandate the two regulations, as European rules allow to do. To this purpose a draft regulation was made out that was supposed to be enacted during the past meeting of April 21. This did not take place, though, because the official translations of the regulations were not available in all the Union languages.

The issue is therefore still unsettled and AIRP thinks it right to get the government involved, so as to acknowledge Regulations 108 and 109 as part of the Highway Code, thus putting retreaded tire approval standards and new tire approval standards on the same level. AIRP has been long urging a solution to the problem both for safety's sake and also because most Italian retreaders are already abiding by UNECE Regulations 108 and 109. To mandate them would then guarantee more safety to all drivers and would also protect jobs from the unfair competition with rival products perhaps imported and made against regulations.

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