

PRESS RELEASE

Holiday time and road safety **The big summer exodus kicks off: get your tires checked!**

The big summer exodus is about to kick off. **Airp** (the Italian Tyre Retreaders Association) highly recommends having your tires checked as an essential step for road safety. The best thing to do – according to **Airp** – is turn to a tire specialist for prompt checking prior to a safe journey and, in case of failure, get the right repair tips. Checking tire inflation (based on the manufacturer's instructions) is the first step taken by tire professionals. It is a very important inspection, since under- or over-inflation negatively affect fuel consumption, tire wear and, most of all, car safety.

TIRES AND SAFETY

What to do before leaving

1. Have your tires inspected by a tire specialist.

When replacing is needed

2. Make sure your replacement tires fully comply with the recommendations in your car registration document.
3. When buying retreads, choose only tires approved according to UNECE Regulations 108 and 109.

After checking your tire inflation, the tire specialist will inspect your tread depth. As a matter of fact, it should be remembered that a tire is the only contact point between a vehicle and the road.

By regulation, tires have to be replaced when the tread depth drops to 1.6mm. We have to keep in mind that new tires have a tread depth of about 7-9mm, but when the depth drops by 3-4mm, your tire rubber can no longer guarantee top performances.

Once the tread depth is verified, tires have to be inspected for any possible sign of uneven tread wear, scoring, cuts, rubber cracking or swellings. If it turns out that one or more tires need replacing, ask a professional tire dealer for advice.

Avoid the DIY solution, since such safety-essential parts as tires require professional advice for the best products to be picked in compliance with the vehicle owner's manual (indicating what kind of tires you can use, namely their dimensions, load index and speed rating codes).

When replacing is needed, retreaded tires are a safe and low-priced alternative. In fact, their production is regulated by strict international standards (UNECE Regulation 108 for vehicles and 109 for trucks) that introduce the same load/speed endurance tests as for new tires. The adoption of such regulations will be mandatory in the EU for tires put on the market after September 13, 2006.

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