

PRESS RELEASE

Mandatory compliance required for all passenger cars in the U.S. in 2008

Tire pressure monitoring systems save your life

With the regulation mandating a TPMS (Tire Pressure Monitoring System) in all passenger cars, 120 human lives are saved and 8,000 injuries are averted every year in the U.S.A. as a result of reduced fatalities. Besides, yearly fuel savings of 1,4 billion euros and considerably reduced maintenance and damage costs are also estimated. Airp (Italian Tyre Retreaders Association) reports the above mentioned statistics taken from an Nhtsa (National Highway Traffic Safety Administration) official survey.

Mandatory compliance with the regulation for all new cars in the U.S. – started in November 2003 – will be progressively carried out by 2007. By early 2008, then, it will have been extended to all passenger cars.

The TPMS technology is very simple. A dashboard warning light comes on when a tire is extremely under-inflated, namely when its pressure is 25 per cent psi below the level recommended by the manufacturer. Installing a TPMS – remarks Airp – is an essential investment for improving safety and efficiency. And, last but not least, proper tire pressure improves fuel savings and reduces tread wear.

One more advantage is that proper tire inflation keeps tire casings in good shape, allowing tires to be retreaded when the tread is worn. This improves cost savings, for retreaded tires are definitely less expensive than new spare tires. Our environment also benefits from retreading worn tires, since this cuts the volume of discards dumped into landfills. Damage caused by under-inflation is particularly clear on truck tires, but passenger cars are also affected by this problem.

The need to enable car and truck drivers to keep their tire pressure checked routinely is also becoming an issue in Europe - remarks Airp -. In fact, some car manufacturers have been already installing TPMS as original equipment on several car models and some systems can be installed afterwards. However, - highlights Airp – it would be wise to mandate TPMS also in all vehicles in Europe. There would be remarkable benefits in terms of safety, economy and environmental protection, for, as we already pointed out, tires that are properly checked throughout their lives can be regularly retreaded when the tread is worn.

Bologna, September 6, 2006

AIRP