

Airp

PRESS RELEASE

According to the EU, proper tire inflation means less CO₂ in the environment

EU COUNTRIES TO MANDATE TPMS FOR IMPROVED VEHICLE SAFETY AND A CLEANER ENVIRONMENT

The EU has included tire pressure monitoring systems in the list of technical devices that help reduce CO₂ emissions and has invited all member countries to mandate them. The news is reported by Airp (the Italian Tyre Retreaders Association), quoting the EU communication on the “strategy to reduce CO₂ emissions from passenger cars and light-commercial vehicles”.

Cars are only a minor source of CO₂ emissions, with about 12% of the overall CO₂ emissions in the EU, as opposed to 14% from air traffic, road transport and sea transport, 16% from industry, 19% from buildings and 39% from electricity generation. According to the EU, the level of CO₂ emissions from cars can be further lowered. In fact, the European objective is to reach 120 g CO₂/km by 2012, with a 40 g/km reduction from the standards laid down in the current legislation.

To reach this objective, new steps will have to be taken, like reducing fuel consumption by delivering further progress in fuel economy. Mandating TPMS is therefore included in the list of steps to be taken. Not everybody knows that proper tire inflation affects fuel consumption and CO₂ emissions. As a matter of fact, tire pressure has a tremendous impact on rolling resistance, which in turn plays a key role in fuel consumption. In particular, low tire inflation pressure increases tire rolling resistance, thus causing higher fuel consumption and CO₂ emissions.

Besides cutting down on harmful emissions – remarks Airp – proper tire inflation is extremely important for vehicle safety and best driving performance. In fact, it helps maximize safety, and this is particularly good for heavy trucks. Tire inflation also affects tire tread wear, in other words, a tire’s life; therefore proper tire inflation means longer tread life. The tire pressure monitoring technology is extremely simple. A light on the dashboard warns you when your tires are below recommended inflation. There are also systems that monitor the inflation in each tire, available for heavy-duty trucks,

“Given that TPMS are so important – notes Airp – we do not see why Italy should not mandate them, just like the U.S. did in accordance with a four year phase-in schedule starting late in 2003. After all – concludes Airp – TPMS are already available on several models as OEM or aftermarket installations.

Bologna, November 21, 2007