

Airp

PRESS RELEASE

With less than 44,000 tons of used tyres released in the environment

Retreads achieve savings of over 270 million euros

In 2008, cost savings of 276 million euros were achieved in Italy through the tyre retreading business. Retreads also helped save 44,712 tons of raw materials and kept 44,218 tons of used tyres out of the environment. In terms of prime materials, savings of 155 million liters of oil and oil products were achieved. These statistics were disclosed by Airp (the Italian Tyre Retreaders Association) in its 2008 ecological and economic balance sheet for tyre retreading.

Italy's ecological and economic balance sheet for tyre retreading in 2008		
	Measurement unit	Amount
Used tyres kept out of the environment	Tons	44,218
Energy savings	Million liters	155
Raw material savings	Tons	44,712
Cost savings for final users	Million Euros	276

Source: Airp

As shown in the Airp statistics, the first aspects emerging from the data are the remarkable savings achieved last year, which take on particular meaning in the light of the current global crisis

which is likely to continue throughout all of 2009. In addition to the economic savings, which translate into higher cost savings for final users, the ecological aspect is also important. As a matter of fact, the environmental benefits achieved by using retreads are quite remarkable (to give just one example, less used tyres were released in the environment in 2008), since retreading allows recovering all those used tyres whose casings have been carefully inspected and declared fit for a second life. Another important issue is road safety, for retreads are manufactured in compliance with UNECE Regulations 108 and 109. These regulations, that have been in force since 2006, provide the same strict technical standards and tests for retreaded tyres as for new tyres. Further evidence concerning the reliability of retreads is the fact that they are widely employed in the airline industry.

And yet, even more economic and environmental benefits might have been achieved in 2008 if only more retreads had been used. Actually, in Italy only 57% of commercial fleets use retreads for their spares, whereas 89% is the equivalent average in France, 87% in Sweden and 83% in Germany. As one can see, there is still quite a long way to go to fill the gap between Italy and the main European countries when it comes to retreads.

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