

Airp

On the Bologna and Ferrara Atc buses

Four tyres out of six are retreads, with cost savings of 35,000 EUR a year

67% of the spare tyres used on the 1,240 Atc fleet buses in the districts of Bologna and Ferrara are retreads. Using this kind of tyres, which offer the same safety standards and mileage as new tyres, helps Atc save some 35,000 EUR a year, not to mention the many environmental benefits provided by retreads. This figure is disclosed in an interview with Eng. Andrea Bottazzi, who is responsible for managing the repair and maintenance of the Atc public fleets of Bologna and Ferrara.

“Choosing retreads – says Andrea Bottazzi – is a common practice for us and includes retreading all fleet tyres that are technically in good shape. This is why we periodically check the tyres used on our vehicles for long mileage and retreadability. Moreover, in our purchase orders for new buses, we specifically request those types of tyres that are most suitable for retreading”.

Opting for retreads is part of the Atc overriding orientation toward safety and environmental friendliness, both verified during each vehicle’s life, for each and every part, including tyres. Retreading therefore means extending a tyre’s life and reducing waste tyre disposal. As of September 2006, with UNECE Regulations 108 and 109 mandatory in all UE countries (both regulations provide the same resistance and durability standards for retreads as for new tyres), consumers, as well as public and private transport fleets get even more guarantees on the safety and reliability of retreads.

“Maintenance is a strategic activity in the management of a fleet numbering in the thousands – continues Bottazzi – and requires highly qualified professionals like those who, in our case, are in charge of checking and replacing tyres. We have four tyre specialists, one in each of our warehouses, who stock new and retreaded spare tyres so as to timely meet all requests”.

The Bologna and Ferrara Atc case certainly sets a fine example and is being followed by other Italian fleets in the public and private commercial sectors, where retreading is supposed to spread even more widely, with huge economic and environmental benefits.

And it is precisely due to the environmental benefits of retreading that the Italian Parliament has made it compulsory for government vehicles and public service fleets - through Law 448/2001 - to reserve 20% of their spare tyre purchases to retreads. This is quite an important achievement for retreading, which also allows for the safety and reliability of retreads.

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