

BIPAVER News Release



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Retread Quality Confirmed as UNECE Regulations 108 and 109 Become Mandatory in EU

The tyre retreading industry is set to receive a major boost in consumer confidence with the news that two UNECE Regulations relating to the production of retreaded tyres are set to become mandatory in the EU.

ECE Regulations 108 and 109, which relate to car and truck tyres respectively, will become compulsory in the EU with effect from September 13, 2006, thereby assuring that retreaded tyres will now have to be subjected to the same "type approval" tests as new tyres. The legislation means that retreaded tyres that are not "e-marked" to show that their producer has gained official approval under ECE 108 and 109 will be illegal at the point of sale throughout the EU.

According to BIPAVER (Bureau International Permanent des Associations Vendeurs et des Rechapeurs de Pneumatiques), which represents the interests of retreaders throughout Europe, the new legislation will make a considerable contribution towards ensuring that the quality, integrity and performance of retreaded tyres are, at the very least, on a par with that of new tyres.

ECE Regulations 108 and 109 commit retreaders to a number of actions designed to ensure traceable quality throughout the retreading process. These include the necessity to display evidence of a comprehensive and demonstrable quality control system and to this end most retread companies are ISO 9001 registered. The Approval authorities can also subject the production of individual retreaders to random drum testing (load/speed performance testing) under the same tyre testing regime, which new tyre manufacturers undertake.

"These testing procedures are an effective way of confirming the quality of any given retreader's product. We believe the implementation of ECE 108 and 109 will make a major contribution towards demonstrating the excellent quality of the products manufactured by the EU's retreading companies", commented BIPAVER Secretary, Ruud Spuijbroek.

Although ECE 108 and 109 will become mandatory on September, a governments of number of EU states have made the Regulations mandatory within their own countries at various times within the last 3 years.