

## ADVISORY BULLETIN

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### Are my tyres too old to use ?

This is a question we often receive and with good reason. A sobering statistic was represented in one study, which found that tyres six years or older represented 84% of insurance claims resulting from tyre failure. <sup>(1)</sup>

ATIC (Australian Tyre Industry Council) has recognised the seriousness of this issue and has provided the following recommendations.

We must mention that the actual conditions of use are just as important as the age of a tyre: ambient temperature, mileage, actual load, speed, exposure to ultraviolet light and the correct inflation pressure are some of the most important factors that will contribute to the ageing of your tyres.

### When is old... too old ?

In addition to regular tyre inspections, most tyre manufacturers recommend that a tyre professional inspects your tyres **at least once a year** once they reach five years of age, regardless of actual wear or time in service.

In order to ensure safe driving for you and your family, it is good practice that tyres should be removed from service and properly recycled once they reach ten years of age, regardless of appearance, mileage or actual wear.

### When were my tyres manufactured ?

All tyres have a tyre identification number, often known as the DOT (US Department of Transportation) code. This code identifies a number of parameters including the week and year of manufacture. Look at the last 4 digits of this code: for example, 3512 means the tyre was produced in week 35 of 2012. It could well be that tyres on the same vehicle have different dates of manufacture, so it is a good idea to check all tyres, especially the spare.

<sup>(1)</sup> : National Highway Traffic Safety Administration: USA Crash Data, Light Vehicle Tire-related crashes, fatalities and injuries possibly caused by tire ageing, 2005-2006.

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This Bulletin should be considered as being of a general advisory nature only. In case of conflict with existing recommendations issued by a vehicle manufacturer, these latter recommendations should apply.

