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TECHNICAL BULLETIN

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Hankook Replacement Recommendations: Tire Service Life for Passenger Car and Light Truck Tires

There is no hard and fast rule to measure service life of a tire. Tires are made with various types of raw materials and a variety of rubber compounds all having varying performance properties. Once a tire is designed and manufactured to achieve given performance property and put into use, it is still subjected to varying condition such as weather, storage, and still further varying use conditions such as load, speed, inflation pressure, maintenance and road condition. Since all these factors affect the service life of a tire, it just is not possible to predict with accuracy or scientific validity service life of a tire.

Tires unquestionably degrade over time, whether in use or not in use. Some tire and vehicle manufacturers published warnings to consumers of their products to the effect that tires should be replaced after six years of manufacture. Certain industry organizations issued statements concurring with six year service life for tires. Depending on severity of adverse use conditions or non-use, many tires degrade fast enough to require replacement before six years of service life. Others in perfectly favorable use conditions may enjoy service life of more than six years.

The following recommendations are intended to give consumers some idea concerning service life of a tire.

Hankook always insist and mandate that consumers properly maintain and periodically inspect your tires. Even if a consumer properly maintain and periodically inspect the tire, most tires will require replacement before 10 years of manufacture regardless of tread-wear. It is recommended that tires in service 10 years or more from the date of manufacture must be replaced even if it was never used.

Date of manufacture can be determined by reading the Department of Transportation (DOT) code on the sidewall. The entire code will be printed on outbound side of the tire. The DOT code will end with the week and year of manufacture. For example, a tire with DOT code reading 1GFN AVN 1408, was manufactured during the 14th week of 2008.

Consumers must regularly have tires inspected by qualified tire dealers throughout its life. Further tires that are over five years of age should be inspected at least twice a year and more frequently if the use is heavy.

Consumers must always be vigilant of tires' performance, condition, inflation pressure, and any other issues that could affect the life of a tire. Consumers properly maintain, including proper inflation pressures, and periodically inspect your tires. Failure to do so might result in separation or performance loss resulting in vehicle damage, injury or even death.

For original equipment tires, acquired when purchasing a new vehicle, should follow all of vehicle manufacturers' recommendations.

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