

# SERVICE BULLETIN

No. 79

October 8, 1991

To: All Customers

## PASSENGER & LIGHT TRUCK TIRE SAFETY

For safety and good tire performance consumers must properly care for, maintain and inspect their tires. In the interest of providing this **IMPORTANT INFORMATION TO THE CONSUMER**, Cooper has developed a form for "Passenger & Light Truck Tire Safety". A supply of these forms is enclosed. The form is to be given to prospective and tire size, purchase date and recommended tire pressure information, thereby customizing the form for the specific consumer/vehicle.

It is suggested that you attach one of these forms to the consumer copy of each of your tire sales invoices. You should also consider displaying the form at your sales counter or customer waiting area. This will show your valuable customer that you CARE by informing them of how to care for, maintain and inspect their tires.

The Passenger and Light Truck Tire Safety forms and this Service Bulletin are available to you at no cost. They may be ordered through the Consumer Relations Department or Advertising Department, Cooper Tire & Rubber Company, Findlay, Ohio 45840 by requesting the form number listed below and on the back of the form. If you wholesale tires to other dealers (sub-dealer), each should receive a copy of this Service Bulletin and a supply of the Safety forms. Please advise Cooper of the number of Service Bulletins and Safety forms that are needed and we will provide them to you as quickly as possible.

Should you have any questions regarding the above, please contact the Consumer Relations Department at 1-800-854-6288.

Attachment: Passenger and Light Truck Tire Safety Form #860-I01-9016

# PASSENGER & LIGHT TRUCK TIRE SAFETY

FOR SAFETY AND GOOD PERFORMANCE, YOU MUST TAKE CARE OF YOUR TIRES. FOLLOW INSTRUCTIONS CONTAINED IN THIS BROCHURE.

**CORRECT TIRE PRESSURE IS VERY IMPORTANT. PROPER INFLATION PRESSURE FOR YOUR TIRES MAY BE FOUND IN THE VEHICLE OWNER'S MANUAL OR THE VEHICLE'S TIRE INFORMATION PLACARD.**

## **YOUR VEHICLE:**

Year \_\_\_\_\_ Make/Model \_\_\_\_\_

## **YOUR TIRE SIZE:**

## **TIRE PURCHASE DATE:**

## **RECOMMENDED PRESSURES:**

Front \_\_\_\_\_ Rear \_\_\_\_\_

CHECK TIRE PRESSURES WHEN TIRES ARE COLD AT LEAST ONCE A MONTH BEFORE DRIVING AND BEFORE LONG TRIPS.

## **SAFETY WARNING**

*Disregarding any of the safety precautions and instructions contained in this brochure may result in tire failure or explosion causing serious personal injury or death.*

## **WARNING!**

**DRIVING ON ANY TIRE THAT DOES NOT HAVE THE CORRECT INFLATION PRESSURE IS DANGEROUS**

Any underinflated tire builds up excessive heat that may result in sudden tire destruction.

The correct inflation pressures for your tires have been written by your tire dealer in the spaces above. These pressures must be maintained as a minimum. Do not exceed the pressure indicated on the tire sidewall.

Refer to the tire placard on the vehicle (check vehicle and/or vehicle owners manual for placard location) for the recommended operating pressures.

**CHECK TIRE INFLATION PRESSURES (INCLUDING THE SPARE) AT LEAST ONCE A MONTH WHEN TIRES ARE COLD AND BEFORE LONG TRIPS**

Failure to maintain correct inflation may result in improper vehicle handling, and may cause rapid and irregular tire wear, sudden tire destruction, loss of vehicle control and serious personal injury. Therefore, inflation pressures should be checked at least once a month and always prior to long distance trips. Any tire is susceptible to losing air pressure if not properly maintained.

Pressures should be checked when tires are cold; in other words, before they have been driven on. Driving, even for a short distance, causes tires to heat up and air pressure to increase.

## **HIGH SPEED DRIVING CAN BE DANGEROUS**

Correct inflation pressure is especially important. However, at high speeds, even with the correct inflation pressures, a road hazard is more difficult to avoid and if contact is made, has a greater

chance of causing tire damage than at a lower speed. Moreover, driving at high speed reduces the reaction time available to avoid accidents and bring your vehicle to a safe stop.

## **INSPECT YOUR TIRES. DO NOT DRIVE ON A DAMAGED TIRE OR WHEEL.**

Any time you see any damage to your tires or wheels replace with spare at once and immediately see your tire dealer. When inspecting your tires, including the spare, check your air pressures. If your pressure check indicates that one of your tires has lost pressure of two pounds or more, look for signs of penetrations, valve leakage, or wheel damage that may account for the air loss.

**Always look for bulges, cracks, cuts, penetrations and abnormal tire wear particularly on the edges of the tire tread which may be caused by misalignment or underinflation. If any such damage is found, the tire must be inspected by any tire dealer at once. Use of a damaged tire could result in sudden tire destruction.**

All tires will wear out faster when subjected to high speeds as well as hard cornering, rapid starts, sudden stops, frequent driving on roads which are in poor condition, and off road use. Roads with holes and rocks or other objects can damage tires and cause misalignment of your vehicle. When you drive on such roads, drive on them carefully and slowly, and before driving at normal or highway speeds, examine your tires for any damage, such as cuts or penetrations.

## **WORN OUT TIRES ARE DANGEROUS**

Tires contain "Wear-Bars" in the grooves of the tire tread which show up when only 2/32nds of an inch (1.6mm) tread is remaining. At this stage, your tires must be replaced. Tires worn beyond this stage are dangerous.

## **DO NOT OVERLOAD—DRIVING ON ANY OVERLOADED TIRE IS DANGEROUS**

The maximum load rating of your tires is marked on the tire sidewall. Do not exceed these ratings. Follow the loading instructions of the manufacturer of your vehicle; this should insure that your tires are not overloaded. Tires which are loaded beyond their maximum allowable loads for the particular application will build up excessive heat that may result in sudden tire destruction.

Do not exceed the gross axle weight ratings for any axle on your vehicle.

## **TRAILER TOWING**

If you anticipate towing a trailer, you should see your tire dealer for advice concerning the correct size of tire and pressures. Tire size and pressures will depend upon the type and size of trailer and hitch utilized, but in no case must the maximum cold inflation pressure or the maximum tire load rating be exceeded. The only sure way to prevent overload is to weigh, axle by axle, the fully-loaded vehicles on reliable platform scales. Check the tire placard and the owners manual supplied by the manufacturer of your vehicle for further recommendations on trailer towing.

## **WHEEL ALIGNMENT AND BALANCING ARE IMPORTANT FOR SAFETY AND MAXIMUM MILEAGE FROM YOUR TIRES**

### **INSPECT YOUR TIRES REGULARLY:**

At least once a month inspect your tires closely for signs of uneven wear.

Uneven wear patterns may be caused by improper inflation pressures, misalignment, improper balance or suspension neglect. If not corrected, further tire damage will occur. These conditions not only shorten the life of your tires, but adversely affect the handling characteristics of your vehicle which could be dangerous.

If any of these conditions exist, the cause may often be corrected at your tire dealer's or other service facility. Your tires will then last longer.