

Tyre Manufacturers' Technical Advisory Committee

Minutes of the meeting held 15th July 2021 by video-conference

Present					
Chris Baxter	<i>Hankook</i>	Vincent Bezard	<i>Cooper Tire Europe</i>	Rob Blurton	<i>Michelin</i>
Alistair Brown	<i>GiTi</i>	Steve Howat	<i>Continental</i>	Steve Morris (Chair)	<i>Goodyear</i>
Gerry Murphy	<i>ITMA</i>	Gary Powell	<i>Bridgestone</i>	Nigel Winfield	<i>Pirelli</i>
Shaun Martin	<i>DVSA</i>	Andrew Sefton	<i>DVSA</i>	Simon Smith	<i>DVSA</i>
Apologies					
Alan Meaker	<i>Toyo</i>	Dave Wood	<i>DVSA</i>		
In attendance					
Graham Willson	<i>BTMA</i>				

1. Welcome and housekeeping matters

<i>Discussion</i>	<i>Decision</i>
Graham welcomed participants to the call. Apologies were received as above.	Noted.

2. Compliance statement

<i>Discussion</i>	<i>Decision</i>
Graham highlighted the need to respect Competition law and the requirements of the TIF compliance statement.	Members agreed to abide by the requirements of the compliance statement.

3. Minutes of last meeting held 20th May 2021

<i>Discussion</i>	<i>Decision</i>
Review of the minutes of the meeting held 20 th May 2021.	The minutes were approved unanimously.

4. Matters arising not elsewhere on the agenda: none

5. Enforcement of tyre age regs: case for review of current position

<i>Discussion</i>	<i>Decision</i>
Andrew Sefton indicated that revised instruction had been recently provided to MOT inspectors giving conditional discretion regarding the issue of advisory notices in the specific case of impossibility to see the date code on twin fitments. Gary reported feedback from the field that the effect of this change was already being felt.	Participants welcomed this change.

6. Guidance re van tyres: remaining issues and summary document

<i>Discussion</i>	<i>Decision</i>
'C' marking on tyres: The complexities of the issue were explored.	Steve Howat agreed to draft a brief paragraph for participant's consideration.
Links to C&U regs: Reference to speed symbol and load index are contained in Regs 25 and 26 respectively, not Reg 27.	Graham to amend the text accordingly.

7. Consider extension of guidance to cover motorcycle, motorhome, etc.

<i>Discussion</i>	<i>Decision</i>
Participants considered whether existing provision from other sources was adequate to the needs of the target populations.	Participants agreed that additional material from BTMA was not necessary.

8. Consumer guidance re causes of most common tyre injuries

Discussion	Decision
Members discussed the nature and motivation of customer complaints. They concluded that further technical guidance in the consumer sector would be of little benefit.	Proposed guidance not to be pursued.

9. Tyre advice to drivers of electric vehicles

Discussion	Decision
Members discussed the opportunity to provide consumers with guidance regarding tyres on EVs. Concern was expressed regarding some of the guidance offered by TyreSafe.	The topic was considered too complex and sensitive to pursue. Members to revert to TyreSafe as appropriate.

10. New tyre label: feedback on implementation

Discussion	Decision
Members expressed concern regarding the uncertain timing for the adoption of a GB regulation.	GW to pursue with DfT.

11. Independent technical experts

Discussion	Decision
<p>Graham highlighted the shortage of technical experts available to BTMA and TyreSafe. He presented an analysis of the potential functions to be fulfilled. Key points discussed:</p> <p>Consumer complaints: underlying motivation is economic not technical. Customer is not prepared to pay for independent technical opinion – problem of how to pay consultant. Arguably, what is needed, if anything, is an arbiter, not a technical expert.</p> <p>TyreSafe support for eg part-worn campaign: This issue was not discussed.</p> <p>Independent expert in court case: Need is very infrequent. No solution was identified.</p>	Graham to enquire what how other associations eg SMMT, NTDA, etc. address the issue of arbitrating consumer complaints.

12. Review of 2021 activity plan

Discussion	Decision
The activity plan was reviewed. See annex for latest status.	Noted.

13. Any other urgent business

Discussion	Decision
Gary raised the issue of review of BS AU 50: Tyre storage.	Gary to circulate the standard for review. Members to feed back comments by end August. Depending on responses, a call may be held in September to discuss amendments.

Date of next meeting: 7th December starting at 10:00.

Annex:



TTAC 2021 work plan

15-Jul-21

Subject	Delivery				Cat	Comments
	Q1'21	Q2'21	Q3'21	Q4'21		
Guide to van tyre management					Van	Published
Review scope of guidance: motorcycle, motorhomes, etc					All	Reviewed
Guidance re replacement tyre fitment, particularly on EVs					Car	Completed
Ag tyre inflation procedure					Ag	Stopped
Review DVSA heavy commercial vehicle inflation policy					CV	Review not needed
Present common consumer tyre injuries on website					Car	Cancelled
Develop partner relations with HE & FORS					All	Ongoing
Meeting dates	27-Jan	23-Mar	15-Jul	07-Dec		