

**Tyre Manufacturers' Technical Advisory Committee**

**Minutes of the meeting held 7<sup>th</sup> December 2021 by video-conference**

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

**1. Welcome and housekeeping matters**

<i>Discussion</i>	<i>Decision</i>
Graham welcomed participants to the call and in particular Steve Cope from DVSA. 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 15<sup>th</sup> July 2021**

<i>Discussion</i>	<i>Decision</i>
Review of the minutes of the meeting held 15 <sup>th</sup> July 2021.	The minutes were approved unanimously.

**4. Matters arising not elsewhere on the agenda**

<i>Discussion</i>	<i>Decision</i>
Graham reported the amendment of the Guide to van tyre management as agreed at the previous meeting.	Noted.

**5. Update from DVSA – Steve Cope**

<i>Discussion</i>	<i>Decision</i>
<p>Steve addressed the issuance of advisory notices when the date code was not visible on twin tyres. Policy was revised in July from 'systematic' to 'evidence-based'. The Inspection Manual will be revised accordingly in early 2022. Following the change, the number of advisory notices issued has already fallen sharply.</p> <p>Steve also reported agreement between DVSA and DfT that the fitment of FRT tyres to front steered axles should constitute a major defect at MOT test. At roadside an advisory will be issued as is presently the case for FRT fitted to drive axles. DVSA will consult vehicle operators at next week's 'Stanmore' meeting with a view to adopting the change in the next revision of the PSV/HGV Inspection Manual early in 2022.</p> <p>Steve agreed to confirm adoption following the Stanmore meeting.</p>	Members welcomed both measures and looked forward to continuing their strengthened collaboration the DVSA.

## 6. Tyre shelf-life

<i>Discussion</i>	<i>Decision</i>
<p>Members welcomed the opportunity to discuss this issue, raised by Alan. Graham summarised the industry positions in Germany, Hungary and Poland, distributed with these minutes.</p> <p>Steve Howat spoke of the extreme conditions prevailing in Poland with customers refusing tyres more than 6 months old. In the UK members reported heightened consumer interest in all matters relating to the age of tyres and to the existence of considerable confusion between service life, shelf life, warranty period, etc. However, due to the many variables in play, members also recognised the considerable difficulty in presenting clear-cut, black-and-white guidance in the matter.</p>	<p>Members agreed to pursue the preparation of guidance in regard to the issues raised whilst recognising the challenges and the necessity of securing approval from higher authorities.</p> <p>Members agreed that preparation did not mean publication but that in view of the likely extended gestation period, it was preferable to work in anticipation of a future need rather than to face a crisis ill-equipped.</p>

## 7. UK Review of Driver Certificate of Professional Competence (CPC)

<i>Discussion</i>	<i>Decision</i>
<p>Graham reported the launch of a review of the driver CPC training scheme. Whilst many aspects of this topic are outside the remit of the committee, the opportunity to press for mandatory training on the identification and reporting of tyre and wheel defects as part of the daily walkaround inspection was considered. Steve Cope pointed out that the driver is responsible for the condition of the vehicle. On this basis, it would seem logical to equip the driver to discharge this responsibility.</p>	<p>Graham was mandated to advocate the proposed mandatory training on the identification and reporting of tyre and wheel defects.</p>

## 8. BSI update

<i>Discussion</i>	<i>Decision</i>
<p>Gary reported on the recently-held meeting of the BS/AUE4 committee. Work continues on the 5-year review of tyre-related standards. Efforts continue to recruit members with wheel expertise.</p>	<p>Noted.</p>

## 9. Review of 2021 activity plan

<i>Discussion</i>	<i>Decision</i>
<p>Graham briefly reviewed the delivery of the 2021 activity plan.</p>	<p>Members considered the achievements to be satisfactory.</p>

## 10. 2022 perspectives & plan

<i>Discussion</i>	<i>Decision</i>
<p>Graham invited input to the 2022 committee activity plan. Several topics were proposed and retained. The resulting draft activity plan is shown in annex.</p>	<p>Graham to organise the review of guidance statements on the BTMA website.</p> <p>Graham to circulate the guidance re tyre dressings previously supplied to NTDA for use in a technical bulletin.</p>

## 11. Review of committee functioning and constitution

<i>Discussion</i>	<i>Decision</i>
<p>Graham invited critical feedback on the committee's activity, output and functioning. The Terms of Reference were also considered. Steve H raised the issue of maintaining committee expertise despite member turnover and the possibility of enlarging the membership. Gary highlighted the importance of expertise over size of membership.</p>	<p>Members considered the committee remained relevant and fit for purpose in its present form.</p> <p>Members confirmed their desire to pursue the participation of DVSA, National Highways and other relevant organisations in meetings as appropriate.</p>

## 12. Any other urgent business

<i>Discussion</i>	<i>Decision</i>
<p>None</p>	

**Meeting dates in 2022: 12<sup>th</sup> April, 14<sup>th</sup> July and 6<sup>th</sup> December. All meetings 10:30 – 12:30.**

# Annex: Draft 2022 committee activity plan



## TTAC 2022 work plan

09-Dec-21

Subject	Delivery			Cat	Comments
	T1'22	T2'22	T3'22		
Consider guidance re tyre dressings	█				
Receive report of NH van tyre measurement campaign	█				
Review guidance on BTMA website		█			
Consider guidance re shelf life, service life, warranty, etc	█	█	█		
Support 5-yearly review of relevant British Standards	█	█	█		
Invite DVSA to review PSV/HGV priority tyre-related issues		█			
<b>Meeting dates</b>	12-Apr	14-Jul	06-Dec		