

Technical Services Bulletin Motorcycle & Scooter Tires

Tire Service Life for Motorcycle & Scooter Tires

The tire industry has long recognized the consumers' role in the regular care and maintenance of their tires. The point at which a tire is replaced is a decision for which the owner of the tire is responsible. The tire owner should consider factors such as service conditions, maintenance history, storage conditions, visual inspections, and dynamic performance.

The consumer should consult a tire service professional with any questions about tire service life.

The following information and recommendations are made to aid in assessing the point of maximum service life.

Tires are designed and built to provide many thousands of miles of excellent service. For maximum benefit, tires must be maintained properly to avoid tire damage and abuse that may result in tire disablement. The service life of a tire is a cumulative function of the storage, stowing, rotation and service conditions, which a tire is subjected to throughout its life (load, speed, inflation pressure, road hazard injury, etc.). Since service conditions vary widely, accurately predicting the service life of any specific tire in chronological time is not possible.

The consumer plays an important role in tire maintenance.

Tires should be removed from service for numerous reasons, including tread worn down to minimum depth, damage or abuse (punctures, cuts, impacts, cracks, bulges, underinflation, overloading, etc.). For these reasons' tires must be inspected routinely, i.e., at least once a month. Regular inspection becomes particularly important the longer a tire is kept in service. If tire damage is suspected or found, Continental recommends that the consumer have the tire inspected by a tire service professional. Consumers should use this consultation to determine if the tires can continue in service.

This routine inspection should occur whether the vehicle is equipped with a tire pressure monitoring system (TPMS) or not.

Consumers are strongly encouraged to be aware of their tires' visual condition. Also, they should be alert for any change in dynamic performance such as increased air loss, noise or vibration.

Such changes could be an indicator that one or more of the tires should be immediately removed from service to prevent a tire disablement. Also, the consumer should be the first to recognize a severe in-service impact to a tire and to ensure that the tire is inspected immediately thereafter.

Tire storage, stowage and rotation are also important to the service life of the tire.

More information regarding proper storage, stowage and rotation is located in other Continental publications, which are available upon request and through its websites.

Tire service life recommendation

Continental is unaware of any technical data that supports a specific tire age for removal from service. However, as with other members of the tire and automotive industries, Continental recommends that all tires that are 10 years older than their date stamps be replaced with new tires, even when tires appear to be usable from their external appearance and if the tread depth may have not reached the minimum wear out depth.

Vehicle manufacturers may recommend a different chronological age at which a tire should be replaced based on their understanding of the specific vehicle application; Continental recommends that any such instruction be followed. Also, corresponding local legal standards must be respected if available in the consumer's country of residence.

Consumers should note that most tires would have to be replaced for worn tread or other causes before any prescribed removal period. A stated removal period in no way reduces the consumer's responsibility to replace tires as needed.

Determining the Chronological Age of Tires from their Date Stamps

The chronological age of any tire can be found on one of the tire sidewalls by examining the four-digit manufacturing date stamp.

Usually but not exclusively, the date stamp follows the "DOT" marking and manufacturer related alpha numeric digits.

The last four numbers of the entire string identify the date of manufacture. The first two of these four numbers identify the week of manufacture (which range from "01" to "53"), the last two numbers identify the year of manufacture (e.g., a tire with the information "DOT XXXXXXXX2717" was manufactured in the 27th week of 2017).

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