

Road Safety Week – Tyre Safety

February 2020

Intended audience: All drivers

Managers' brief

Introduction

For the Road Safety campaign in February 2020, we want to talk about the importance of correct tyre maintenance, the dangers of worn tyres, and the law, whether you're driving a Royal Mail vehicle or your own personal car for work purposes.

Overview

The importance of tyre safety cannot be overstated ... as the part that connects your vehicle to the road, it is arguably the most important part on your vehicle.

Some facts:

- Nearly a quarter of breakdowns attended by Highways England, are caused by tyre problems
- Around 40% of fatal or serious injuries caused by vehicle-defects, were for defective tyres
- The legal limit for tyre tread is 1.6mm , or 1.0mm for 3.5t and above
- **Royal Mail policy is to change your tyres at 2mm**, to allow margin for error and so that vehicles can be driven to a workshop
- If you are stopped by the police and found with illegal tyres, **you could receive a £2,500 fine and 3 penalty points per tyre.**
- In just last 9 months, Royal Mail breakdown providers have removed over 1,700 illegal tyres from our vehicles ... that figure doesn't include any illegal tyres removed by our own workshops
- In wet conditions, tyres with only 1mm of tread can take 23% further to stop, than with 2mm, At 50mph, that's an extra 7 metres!
- Driving with under or over-inflated tyres can also affect braking distance, steering and fuel efficiency

What can you do as a Royal Mail driver?

- Carry out a visual check of **ALL** tyres on your vehicle **EVERY DAY**, as part of your vehicle checks. It takes seconds.
- Tyres have wear indicators in the grooves to help you identify when they are close to the limit
- If there is less than 2mm of tread, report it, so that arrangements can be made to replace the tyres
- Offices should have tyre depth gauges available - speak to your manager if you don't have access to one
- If a gauge isn't available, check your tyre tread by placing a 20p coin into the main grooves of the tyre tread - if you can see the raised outer rim of the coin (with the words "TWENTY PENCE" engraved), then the tyre may need replacing.
- Check in at least three different places on each tyre, as one part may be

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more worn than another.

- Look around the tyres and make sure that they do not have cuts, tears, bulges or other damage
- **NEVER DRIVE A VEHICLE WITH ILLEGAL TYRES – NOT EVEN TO THE WORKSHOP**

Remember:

- Your safety, and that of the public is at risk by driving with worn or defective tyres
- If you are stopped and found to have illegal tyres, **YOU** could receive a fine and penalty points
- **We don't want you to run tyres to the legal limit** and there is **NO CHARGE** to you for changing tyres
- **THINK** - Why wouldn't you change them?

Actions

- Safety Reps – complete ASR activities
- Support front line managers in deployment
- Fleet Managers
- Remind drivers to do their vehicle checks and complete the log book before setting out on their journeys
- Managers are to carry out tyre checks on all Royal Mail vehicles and complete a PT1 form if any defective tyres are found.

Preparing your WTLL session

- Ensure vehicle check handouts (where applicable) are available to everyone as part of the WTLL session
- Seat drops
- Speaking to ASR's
- Prepare examples of tyres that have found to be defective
- Any examples of illegal tyres you have dealt with in the office
- Make drivers aware of the posters around the unit

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Facilitation tips

Please use the **Tyre Tread Check** video to reinforce the importance of checking your tyres on a regular basis. Display the road safety poster that will be sent out to all offices on **Friday 21st February**. Additional Posters can be **<<Link to be added by Gary>>**

Running the session

CWU, ASRs and WSRs to display the poster being sent to your units on **21st February 20**. Deliver this WTLL session using the link to film if possible. Make staff aware of the RMTV session that will run alongside this campaign.