



## **E-mark on tyres**

### **The requirement**

It is a requirement throughout the EU<sup>1</sup> that motor vehicles have e-marked tyres. E-marking applies to both new and retreaded tyres.<sup>2</sup> An e-mark confirms that the tyre meets the minimum EU or International (UNECE) standard<sup>3</sup> in relation to its dimensions, load and speed rating.

### **Why is it important to have e-marked tyres?**

An e-marked tyre will have been tested to ensure that the tyre has adequate tread depth and tread and ply separation and is capable of performing at its maximum design weight and speed.

Tyres which are not e-marked may not meet the required minimum EU or international standard. They are likely to perform less well and given the uncertainty over the quality of manufacture could be at risk of sudden and / or serious deterioration endangering both the occupants of the vehicle and other road users. For example, a tyre with inadequate tread or ply separation could be at risk of having a “blow-out” or sudden tyre deflation during driving which would cause the driver to lose control of their vehicle.

### **Roadworthiness check of e-mark tyres**

Checking of e-marked tyres as part of the roadworthiness test is common through the EU. Since 1<sup>st</sup> April 2010, the NCT has included a check to ensure that tyres on cars are e-marked. A similar check for e-marks on HGV tyres was introduced in March of this year. This new test item was introduced because of the importance of the standard of tyres to vehicle and road safety.

The check on e-marking of tyres is one of a number of new NCT test items which were introduced following the completion of a public consultation process in 2009.

### **How can I check for an e-mark when I am replacing my tyres ?**

The RSA recommends that purchasers check new tyres for a visible e-mark. Your seller / fitter should be able to show you the e-mark. Vehicle owners should be aware that it is illegal to purchase non E-marked tyres for use on Irish roads<sup>4</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> EC Directive 2001/43/EC

<sup>2</sup> S.I. No. 118 of 2008 and Council Decision 2006/443/EC

<sup>3</sup> EC Directive 92/23/EEC sets out the EU requirements relevant to tyres

<sup>4</sup> S.I. No. 375 of 2007

## What is an e-mark ?

The 'E' mark consists of an 'E' or 'e' followed by a number included in a circle or a rectangle. The number denotes the government' which granted the approval. The number outside the circle or rectangle is the number of the type approval certificate issued for the tyre size and type.

Apart from tyres other replacement component parts which must be e-marked include exhaust silencers, catalytic convertors and brake pads.

## What should I do if I have recently purchased tyres which are not e-marked?

If you have recently had tyres fitted to your vehicle which do not have an e-mark you should return to the place of purchase and request that they be replaced with the appropriate e-marked tyres for your vehicle. It is illegal to fit non-e-marked tyres<sup>4</sup>.

The Irish Tyre Industry Association (ITIA) is advising that any motorist who has purchased a non e-marked tyre should go back to the vendor with proof of purchase. If you have a consumer rights query when returning non e-marked tyres you should contact the National Consumer Agency.

## Extract NCT test on tyres [see number 8 for e-mark]



#	MARKING	EXPLANATION
1	205	Tyre width in millimetres
2	55	Height-to-width ratio in percent. In this example, 55% of 205mm. Also called the aspect ratio.
3	R	Radial construction
4	16	Inner rim diameter of the tyre in inches.
5	91	Service description: Load Index. Denotes the maximum approved load capacity per individual tyre.
6	V	Service description: Speed symbol. Indicates the maximum speed for the tyre at full load. In this case 241 kph (150 mph).
7	0204	Production date code (i.e. second week in 2004)
8	E4	Type approval mark (ECE) designating country where issued ("E-mark). There may be a small "e" instead of or in addition to the "E" mark. The "e-mark" denotes EU type approval. Either is acceptable.
9	214336	Type approval number (ECE).
10	Outside	Asymmetric tyre marking. Where present indicates location of tyre on vehicle.
Not Shown	Arrow	Where present indicates direction of rotation.

## Further queries

If you have any further queries please contact [vehiclestandards@rsa.ie](mailto:vehiclestandards@rsa.ie) or call the Vehicle Standards section at 096 25014.