

## Selling safe part-worn tyres

**The Motor Vehicle Tyres (Safety) Regulations 1994, as amended,** set out minimum safety standards for the supply of part-worn tyres. To comply, it is important that you and your staff are fully aware of these Regulations.

**Under the Regulations, it is illegal to supply any part-worn tyre that is capable of being fitted to a motor vehicle or trailer unless the following conditions are met:**

### Marking

Part-worn tyres (except retreads) should have an EC approval mark (for example E11) and a speed and load capacity index (for example 76 S), moulded into the side wall at the time of manufacture.

**In addition, all types of part-worn tyres must be marked "PART-WORN" in upper case letters at least 4mm high.**

This wording must be permanently and legibly applied to the tyre, otherwise than by hot-branding or cutting into the tyre and adjacent to every approval mark.

Rubber labels can be cold vulcanised to the tyre and are available from companies that advertise in the trade press.

### Condition

Part-worn tyres, whether deflated, or inflated to the highest operating pressure at which they are designed to operate, must not have:

- any cut over 25mm or 10% of the section width of the tyre, whichever is the greater, on the outside of the tyre, deep enough to reach the ply or cord;
- any internal or external lump, bulge or tear caused by separation or partial failure of its structure;
- any ply or cord exposed internally or externally;
- any penetration damage that has not been repaired.



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In addition the grooves of the original tread pattern of the tyre must be at least 2mm deep across the full breadth of the tread and around the entire outer circumference of the tyre.

### **Part worn retreaded Tyres**

Part-worn tyres that have been retreaded must have:

- BS AU 144b, 144c, 144d, or 144e markings on the side wall, or
- an ECE approval mark, or
- a permanent mark to identify the original model and manufacturer, the word 'RETREAD' moulded onto or into its sidewall (in upper case letters at least 4mm high), and further markings in accordance with ECE rules. You may need to seek further advice as to which rules apply.

The indication 'PART WORN' must also appear next to the BS or ECE approval mark, or next to the word 'RETREAD'.

For tyres marked BS AU 144e, a speed category symbol and load capacity marking should be present.

**A tyre has to comply with all the requirements detailed above whether or not it is fitted to a rim.**

**We recommend that a thorough inspection of the tyre must be made before fitting to the rim, and after fitting and inflating the tyre to the highest operating pressure. Tyres which are sold unfitted will need to be inspected with particular care, as it is still an offence to supply tyres with the defects listed above which become detectable when the tyre is inflated. Inflation and inspection is recommended.**

### **Repaired Tyres**

If a tyre has been repaired, it must have been properly repaired.

Any tyre that has been repaired should be inspected very carefully. **Repairs need to comply with BS AU 159f, 1997: Specification for repairs to tyres for motor vehicles used on the public highway. If you are not competent to judge a repair we suggest the tyre is disposed of.**

## Tyres in storage

It is also illegal to have unsafe tyres in possession for sale, so you will need to be clear what is and what is not for sale. If you have tyres in storage, but not intended for sale, they should be clearly marked as such.

## Penalties

Conviction could render you liable to a penalty of <b>six months</b> imprisonment, a fine of up to <b>£5,000</b> or <b>both</b>
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### *Where can I get further help?*

This leaflet is not an authoritative document on the law and is only intended for guidance. For further details or clarification contact Derbyshire Trading Standards at:

Chatsworth Hall  
Chesterfield Road  
Matlock  
Derbyshire  
DE4 3FW

Telephone:

**Businesses:** Call Derbyshire 08 456 058 058  
**Consumers:** Consumer Direct 08454 040506

Fax: 01629 536197

Website: [www.derbyshire.gov.uk/tradingstandards](http://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/tradingstandards)

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