

# TARTER

Working Harder Since 1945

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For tires mounted on Tarter Trailers

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## **TIRE SAFETY, REGISTRATION & WARRANTY INFORMATION**

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All information, illustrations and specifications in this manual are based on the latest information available at the time of publication. The right is reserved to make changes at any time without notice.

Tarter  
P.O. Box 10  
Dunnville, KY 42528

## REPORTING SAFETY DEFECTS

If you believe that your vehicle has a defect that could cause a crash or could cause injury or death, you should immediately inform the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) in addition to notifying Tarter.

If NHTSA receives similar complaints, it may open an investigation, and if it finds that a safety defect exists in a group of vehicles, it may order a recall and remedy campaign. However, NHTSA cannot become involved in individual problems between you, your dealer or Tarter.

To contact NHTSA you may either call the Vehicle Safety Hotline toll-free at 1-888-327-4236 (TTY: 1-800-424-9153), go to <http://www.safercar.gov>; or write to:

Administrator  
NHTSA  
1200 New Jersey Avenue S.E.  
Washington, DC 20590

You can also obtain other information about motor vehicle safety from <http://www.safercar.gov>.

## TIRE REGISTRY CARD INSTRUCTIONS

Registering your trailer tires is important. It provides vital information to us in the event that there is a recall and we need to contact you. Before completing the Tire Registry Card read and understand all of the following steps below.

Follow the directions as they apply to your tires.

Call Tarter customer service at 800-733-4283 if you have any questions.

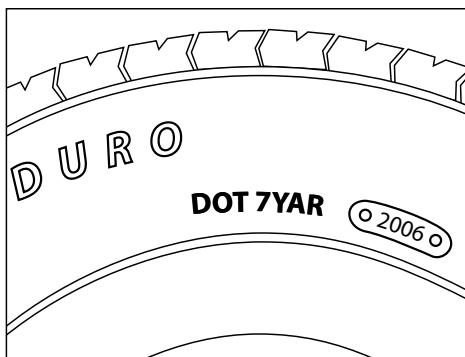
- 1.) To help you in locating the Tire Identification Numbers (TIN) and other important information about your tires, please refer to Figure 1 on page 5.
- 2.) Turn to page 22 in this booklet for a copy of the tire registry card.
- 3.) Complete in full the customer's name and address section as well as the (dealers) seller's name and address if known.
- 4.) Locate the stamped numbers on your tires sidewall that immediately follow the letters DOT. (Figure 1). Notate the series of numbers and letters on your registry card in the Tire Identification Numbers section. Check each tire and indicate in the QTY section the number of tires having the same lot number on the sidewall.

*Important Note: Tire Manufacturer's generally put the entire Tire Identification number on one sidewall only, so this number may be on the inside sidewall of your tires (as mounted on your trailer).*

- 5.) Fill out your copy of the Tire Registry information and retain with your trailer records.
- 6.) Locate the postcard from the Tarter Trailer titled "Vehicle Registration & Tire Registry" included with your trailer registration documents. Fill this card out and return it to Tarter to properly register your vehicle and tire identification numbers.

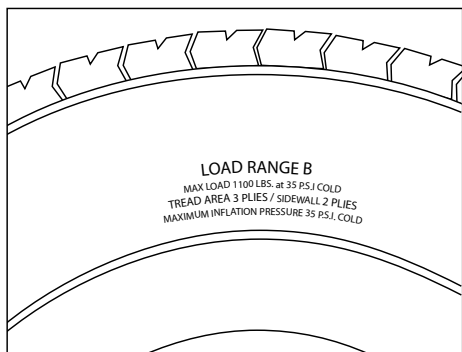
**For important safety information regarding your tires please read this entire booklet.**

## LOCATING IMPORTANT TIRE INFORMATION

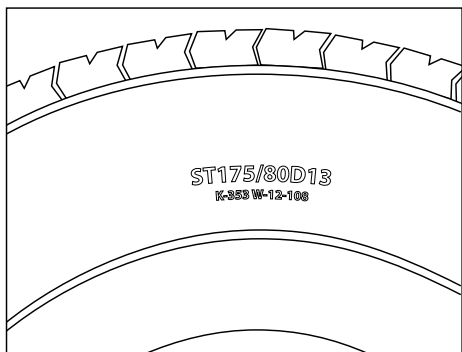


**Figure 1:** Tire manufacturer name and Tire Identification Number (TIN)

*NOTE: Tire Identification Number (TIN) immediately follows the letters DOT. The TIN is a combination of 7 to 11 letters and numbers, and are a batch or lot number referring to where the tire was made and when it was made. In Figure 1 – this tire was manufactured during the 20th week of 2006.*



**Figure 2:** Tire Pressure, Load Range & Maximum Load



**Figure 3:** Tire Size



## SAFETY INFORMATION

This portion of this tire booklet contains Tire Safety Information as required by 49 CFR 575.6.

**Section 1** contains “Steps for Determining Correct Load Limit - Trailer”.

**Section 2** contains “Steps for Determining Correct Load Limit – Tow Vehicle”.

**Section 3** contains a Glossary of Tire Terminology, including “cold inflation pressure”, “maximum inflation pressure”, “recommended inflation pressure”, and other non-technical terms.

**Section 4** contains information from the NHTSA brochure entitled “Tire Safety – Everything Rides On It”.

This brochure, as well as the preceding subsections, describes the following items:

- Tire labeling, including a description and explanation of each marking on the tires, and information about the DOT Tire Identification Number (TIN).
- Recommended tire inflation pressure, including a description and explanation of:
  - A. Cold inflation pressure.
  - B. Vehicle Placard and location on the vehicle.
  - C. Adverse safety consequences of under-inflation (including tire failure).
  - D. Measuring and adjusting air pressure for proper inflation.
- Tire Care, including maintenance and safety practices.
- Vehicle load limits, including a description and explanation of the following items:
  - A. Locating and understanding the load limit information, total load capacity, and cargo capacity.
  - B. Calculating total and cargo capacities with varying seating configurations including quantitative examples showing / illustrating how the vehicles cargo and luggage capacity decreases as combined number and size of occupants' increases. This item is also discussed in Section 2.
  - C. Determining compatibility of tire and vehicle load capabilities.
  - D. Adverse safety consequences of overloading on handling and stopping on tires.

## **1. STEPS FOR DETERMINING CORRECT LOAD LIMIT – TRAILER**

Determining the load limits of a trailer includes more than understanding the load limits of the tires alone. On all trailers there is a Federal certification/VIN label that is located on the forward half of the left (road) side of the unit. This certification/VIN label will indicate the trailer's Gross Vehicle Weight Rating (GVWR). This is the most weight the fully loaded trailer can weigh. It will also provide the Gross Axle Weight Rating (GAWR). This is the most a particular axle can weigh. If there are multiple axles, the GAWR of each axle will be provided.

If your trailer has a GVWR of 10,000 pounds or less, there is a vehicle placard located in the same location as the certification label described above. This placard provides tire and loading information. In addition, this placard will show a statement regarding maximum cargo capacity. Cargo can be added to the trailer, up to the maximum weight specified on the placard. The combined weight of the cargo is provided as a single number. In any case, remember: the total weight of a fully loaded trailer can not exceed the stated GVWR.

For trailers with living quarters installed, the weight of water and propane also needed to be considered. The weight of fully filled propane containers is considered part of the weight of the trailer before it is loaded with cargo, and is not considered part of the disposable cargo load. Water however, is a disposable cargo weight and is treated as such. If there is a fresh water storage tank of 100 gallons, this tank when filled would weigh about 800 pounds. If more cargo is being transported, water can be off-loaded to keep the total amount of cargo added to the vehicle within the limits of the GVWR so as not to overload the vehicle. Understanding this flexibility will allow you, the owner, to make choices that fit your travel needs.

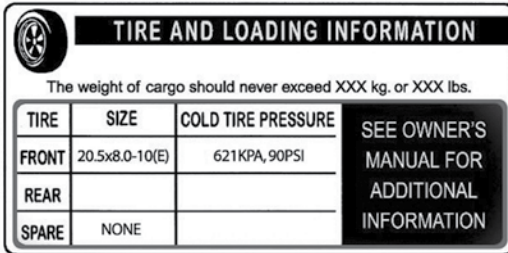
When loading your cargo, be sure it is distributed evenly to prevent overloading front to back and side to side. Heavy items should be placed low and as close to the axle positions as reasonable. Too many items on one side may overload a tire. The best way to know the actual weight of the vehicle is to weigh it at a public scale. Talk to your dealer to discuss the weighing methods needed to capture the various weights related to the trailer. This would include the weight empty or unloaded, weights per axle, wheel, hitch or king-pin and total weight.

Excessive loads and/or under-inflation cause tire overloading and, as a result, abnormal tire flexing occurs. This situation can generate an excessive amount of heat within the tire. Excessive heat may lead to tire failure. It is the air pressure that enables a tire to support the load, so proper inflation is critical. The proper air pressure may be found on the certification/VIN label and/or on the Tire Placard. This value should never exceed the maximum cold inflation pressure stamped on the tire.



# SAFETY INFORMATION

## 1.1. TRAILERS 10,000 POUNDS GVWR OR LESS



Tire and Loading Information Placard – Figure 1-1

1. Locate the statement, “The weight of cargo should never exceed XXX kg or XXX lbs.,” on your vehicle’s placard. See figure 1-1.
2. This figure equals the available amount of cargo and luggage load capacity.
3. Determine the combined weight of luggage and cargo being loaded on the vehicle. That weight may not safely exceed the available cargo and luggage load capacity.

The trailer’s placard refers to the Tire Information Placard attached adjacent to or near the trailer’s VIN (Certification) label at the left front of the trailer.

## 1.2. TRAILERS OVER 10,000 POUNDS GVWR (NOTE: THESE TRAILERS ARE NOT REQUIRED TO HAVE A TIRE INFORMATION PLACARD ON THE VEHICLE)

1. Determine the empty weight of your trailer by weighing the trailer using a public scale or other means. This step does not have to be repeated.
2. Locate the GVWR (Gross Vehicle Weight Rating) of the trailer on your trailer’s VIN (Certification) label.
3. Subtract the empty weight of your trailer from the GVWR stated on the VIN label. That weight is the maximum available cargo capacity of the trailer and may not be safely exceeded.

## 2. STEPS FOR DETERMINING CORRECT LOAD LIMIT – TOW VEHICLE

1. Locate the statement, “The combined weight of occupants and cargo should never exceed XXX lbs.,” on your vehicle’s placard.
2. Determine the combined weight of the driver and passengers who will be riding in your vehicle.
3. Subtract the combined weight of the driver and passengers from XXX kilograms or XXX pounds.

4. The resulting figure equals the available amount of cargo and luggage capacity. For example, if the “XXX” amount equals 1400 lbs. and there will be five 150 lb. passengers in your vehicle, the amount of available cargo and luggage capacity is 650 lbs. (1400-750 (5 x 150) = 650 lbs.).
5. Determine the combined weight of luggage and cargo being loaded on the vehicle. That weight may not safely exceed the available cargo and luggage capacity calculated in Step # 4.
6. If your vehicle will be towing a trailer, load from your trailer will be transferred to your vehicle. Consult the tow vehicle’s manual to determine how this weight transfer reduces the available cargo and luggage capacity of your vehicle.

### **3. GLOSSARY OF TIRE TERMINOLOGY**

#### **Accessory Weight**

The combined weight (in excess of those standard items which may be replaced) of automatic transmission, power steering, power brakes, power windows, power seats, radio and heater, to the extent that these items are available as factory-installed equipment (whether installed or not).

#### **Bead**

The part of the tire that is made of steel wires, wrapped or reinforced by ply cords and that is shaped to fit the rim.

#### **Bead Separation**

This is the breakdown of the bond between components in the bead.

#### **Bias Ply Tire**

A pneumatic tire in which the ply cords that extend to the beads are laid at alternate angles substantially less than 90 degrees to the centerline of the tread.

#### **Carcass**

The tire structure, except tread and sidewall rubber which, when inflated, bears the load.

#### **Chunking**

The breaking away of pieces of the tread or sidewall.

#### **Cold Inflation Pressure**

The pressure in the tire before you drive.

#### **Cord**

The strands forming the plies in the tire.

#### **Cord Separation**

The parting of cords from adjacent rubber compounds.

#### **Cracking**

Any parting within the tread, sidewall, or inner liner of the tire extending to cord material.



## SAFETY INFORMATION

### **CT**

A pneumatic tire with an inverted flange tire and rim system in which the rim is designed with rim flanges pointed radially inward and the tire is designed to fit on the underside of the rim in a manner that encloses the rim flanges inside the air cavity of the tire.

### **Curb Weight**

The weight of a motor vehicle with standard equipment including the maximum capacity of fuel, oil, and coolant, and, if so equipped, air conditioning and additional weight optional engine.

### **Extra Load Tire**

A tire designed to operate at higher loads and at higher inflation pressures than the corresponding standard tire.

### **Groove**

The space between two adjacent tread ribs.

### **Gross Axle Weight Rating**

The maximum weight that any axle can support, as published on the Certification/VIN label on the front left side of the trailer. Actual weight determined by weighing each axle on a public scale, with the trailer attached to the towing vehicle.

### **Gross Vehicle Weight Rating**

The maximum weight of the fully loaded trailer, as published on the Certification/VIN label. Actual weight determined by weighing trailer on a public scale, without being attached to the towing vehicle.

### **Hitch Weight**

The downward force exerted on the hitch ball by the trailer coupler.

### **Innerliner**

The layer(s) forming the inside surface of a tubeless tire that contains the inflating medium within the tire.

### **Innerliner Separation**

The parting of the innerliner from cord material in the carcass.

### **Intended Outboard Sidewall**

The sidewall that contains a white-wall, bears white lettering or bears manufacturer, brand, and/or model name molding that is higher or deeper than the same molding on the other sidewall of the tire or the outward facing sidewall of an asymmetrical tire that has a particular side that must always face outward when mounted on a vehicle.

### **Light Truck (LT) Tire**

A tire designated by its manufacturer as primarily intended for use on lightweight trucks or multipurpose passenger vehicles.

**Load Rating**

The maximum load that a tire is rated to carry for a given inflation pressure.

**Maximum Load Rating**

The load rating for a tire at the maximum permissible inflation pressure for that tire.

**Maximum Permissible Inflation Pressure**

The maximum cold inflation pressure to which a tire may be inflated.

**Maximum Loaded Vehicle Weight**

The sum of curb weight, accessory weight, vehicle capacity weight, and production options weight.

**Measuring Rim**

The rim on which a tire is fitted for physical dimension requirements.

**Non-pneumatic Rim**

A mechanical device which, when a non-pneumatic tire assembly incorporates a wheel, supports the tire, and attaches, either integrally or separately, to the wheel center member and upon which the tire is attached.

**Non-pneumatic Spare Tire Assembly**

A non-pneumatic tire assembly intended for temporary use in place of one of the pneumatic tires and rims that are fitted to a passenger car in compliance with the requirements of this standard.

**Non-pneumatic Tire**

A mechanical device which transmits, either directly or through a wheel or wheel center member, the vertical load and tractive forces from the roadway to the vehicle, generates the tractive forces that provide the directional control of the vehicle and does not rely on the containment of any gas or fluid for providing those functions.

**Non-pneumatic Tire Assembly**

A non-pneumatic tire, alone or in combination with a wheel or wheel center member, which can be mounted on a vehicle.

**Normal Occupant Weight**

This means 68 kilograms (150 lbs.) times the number of occupants specified in the second column of Table I of 49 CFR 571.110.

**Occupant Distribution**

The distribution of occupants in a vehicle as specified in the third column of Table I of 49 CFR 571.110.

**Open Splice**

Any parting at any junction of tread, sidewall, or innerliner that extends to cord material.

**Outer Diameter**

The overall diameter of an inflated new tire.



## SAFETY INFORMATION

### **Overall Width**

The linear distance between the exteriors of the sidewalls of an inflated tire, including elevations due to labeling, decorations, or protective bands or ribs.

### **Pin Weight**

The downward force applied to the 5th wheel or gooseneck ball, by the trailer kingpin or gooseneck coupler.

### **Ply**

A layer of rubber-coated parallel cords.

### **Ply Separation**

A parting of rubber compound between adjacent plies.

### **Pneumatic Tire**

A mechanical device made of rubber, chemicals, fabric and steel or other materials, that, when mounted on an automotive wheel, provides the traction and contains the gas or fluid that sustains the load.

### **Production Options Weight**

The combined weight of those installed regular production options weighing over 2.3 kilograms (5 lbs.) in excess of those standard items which they replace, not previously considered in curb weight or accessory weight, including heavy duty brakes, ride levelers, roof rack, heavy duty battery, and special trim.

### **Radial Ply Tire**

A pneumatic tire in which the ply cords that extend to the beads are laid at substantially 90 degrees to the centerline of the tread.

### **Recommended Inflation Pressure**

This is the inflation pressure provided by the vehicle manufacturer on the Tire Information label and on the Certification / VIN tag.

### **Reinforced Tire**

A tire designed to operate at higher loads and at higher inflation pressures than the corresponding standard tire.

### **Rim**

A metal support for a tire or a tire and tube assembly upon which the tire beads are seated.

### **Rim Diameter**

This means the nominal diameter of the bead seat.

### **Rim Size Designation**

This means the rim diameter and width.

### **Rim Type Designation**

This means the industry of manufacturer's designation for a rim by style or code.

**Rim Width**

This means the nominal distance between rim flanges.

**Section Width**

The linear distance between the exteriors of the sidewalls of an inflated tire, excluding elevations due to labeling, decoration, or protective bands.

**Sidewall**

That portion of a tire between the tread and bead.

**Sidewall Separation**

The parting of the rubber compound from the cord material in the sidewall.

**Special Trailer (ST) Tire**

The "ST" is an indication the tire is for trailer use only.

**Test Rim**

The rim on which a tire is fitted for testing, and may be any rim listed as appropriate for use with that tire.

**Tread**

That portion of a tire that comes into contact with the road.

**Tread Rib**

A tread section running circumferentially around a tire.

**Tread Separation**

Pulling away of the tread from the tire carcass.

**Treadwear Indicators (TWI)**

The projections within the principal grooves designed to give a visual indication of the degrees of wear of the tread.

**Vehicle Capacity Weight**

The rated cargo and luggage load plus 68 kilograms (150 lbs.) times the vehicle's designated seating capacity.

**Vehicle Maximum Load on the Tire**

The load on an individual tire that is determined by distributing to each axle its share of the maximum loaded vehicle weight and dividing by two.

**Vehicle Normal Load on the Tire**

The load on an individual tire that is determined by distributing to each axle its share of the curb weight, accessory weight, and normal occupant weight (distributed in accordance with Table I of CRF 49 571.110) and dividing by 2.

**Weather Side**

The surface area of the rim not covered by the inflated tire.



## SAFETY INFORMATION

### Wheel Center Member

In the case of a non-pneumatic tire assembly incorporating a wheel, a mechanical device which attaches, either integrally or separably, to the non-pneumatic rim and provides the connection between the non-pneumatic rim and the vehicle; or, in the case of a non-pneumatic tire assembly not incorporating a wheel, a mechanical device which attaches, either integrally or separably, to the non-pneumatic tire and provides the connection between tire and the vehicle.

### Wheel-holding Fixture

The fixture used to hold the wheel and tire assembly securely during testing.

## 4. TIRE SAFETY - EVERYTHING RIDES ON IT

The National Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) has published a brochure (DOT HS 809 361) that discusses all aspects of Tire Safety, as required by CFR 575.6. This brochure is reproduced in part below. It can be obtained and downloaded from NHTSA, free of charge, from the following web site:

[http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov/cars/rules/TireSafety/ridesonit/tires\\_index.html](http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov/cars/rules/TireSafety/ridesonit/tires_index.html)

Studies of tire safety show that maintaining proper tire pressure, observing tire and vehicle load limits (not carrying more weight in your vehicle than your tires or vehicle can safely handle), avoiding road hazards, and inspecting tires for cuts, slashes, and other irregularities are the most important things you can do to avoid tire failure, such as tread separation or blowout and flat tires. These actions, along with other care and maintenance activities, can also:

- Improve vehicle handling
- Help protect you and others from avoidable breakdowns and accidents
- Improve fuel economy
- Increase the life of your tires.

This booklet presents a comprehensive overview of tire safety, including information on the following topics:

- Basic tire maintenance
- Uniform Tire Quality Grading System
- Fundamental characteristics of tires
- Tire safety tips.

Use this information to make tire safety a regular part of your vehicle maintenance routine. Recognize that the time you spend is minimal compared with the inconvenience and safety consequences of a flat tire or other tire failure.

## **4.1. SAFETY FIRST—BASIC TIRE MAINTENANCE**

Properly maintained tires improve the steering, stopping, traction, and load-carrying capability of your vehicle. Under-inflated tires and overloaded vehicles are a major cause of tire failure. Therefore, as mentioned above, to avoid flat tires and other types of tire failure, you should maintain proper tire pressure, observe tire and vehicle load limits, avoid road hazards, and regularly inspect your tires.

## **4.2. FINDING YOUR VEHICLE'S RECOMMENDED TIRE PRESSURE AND LOAD LIMITS**

Tire information placards and vehicle certification labels contain information on tires and load limits. These labels indicate the vehicle manufacturer's information including:

- Recommended tire size
- Recommended tire inflation pressure
- Vehicle capacity weight (VCW—the maximum occupant and cargo weight a vehicle is designed to carry)
- Front and rear gross axle weight ratings (GAWR—the maximum weight the axle systems are designed to carry).

Both placards and certification labels are permanently attached to the trailer near the left front.

## **4.3. UNDERSTANDING TIRE PRESSURE AND LOAD LIMITS**

Tire inflation pressure is the level of air in the tire that provides it with load-carrying capacity and affects the overall performance of the vehicle. The tire inflation pressure is a number that indicates the amount of air pressure—measured in pounds per square inch (psi)—a tire requires to be properly inflated. (You will also find this number on the vehicle information placard expressed in kilopascals (kpa), which is the metric measure used internationally.)

Manufacturers of passenger vehicles and light trucks determine this number based on the vehicle's design load limit, that is, the greatest amount of weight a vehicle can safely carry and the vehicle's tire size. The proper tire pressure for your vehicle is referred to as the "recommended cold inflation pressure." (As you will read below, it is difficult to obtain the recommended tire pressure if your tires are not cold.)

Because tires are designed to be used on more than one type of vehicle, tire manufacturers list the "maximum permissible inflation pressure" on the tire sidewall. This number is the greatest amount of air pressure that should ever be put in the tire under normal driving conditions.



### 4.4. CHECKING TIRE PRESSURE

It is important to check your vehicle's tire pressure at least once a month for the following reasons:

- Most tires may naturally lose air over time.
- Tires can lose air suddenly if you drive over a pothole or other object or if you strike the curb when parking.
- With radial tires, it is usually not possible to determine under-inflation by visual inspection.

For convenience, purchase a tire pressure gauge to keep in your vehicle. Gauges can be purchased at tire dealerships, auto supply stores, and other retail outlets.

The recommended tire inflation pressure that vehicle manufacturers provide reflects the proper psi when a tire is cold. The term cold does not relate to the outside temperature. Rather, a cold tire is one that has not been driven on for at least three hours. When you drive, your tires get warmer, causing the air pressure within them to increase. Therefore, to get an accurate tire pressure reading, you must measure tire pressure when the tires are cold or compensate for the extra pressure in warm tires.

### 4.5. STEPS FOR MAINTAINING PROPER TIRE PRESSURE

1. Locate the recommended tire pressure on the vehicle's tire information placard, certification label, or in the owner's manual.
2. Record the tire pressure of all tires.
3. If the tire pressure is too high in any of the tires, slowly release air by gently pressing on the tire valve stem with the edge of your tire gauge until you get to the correct pressure.
4. If the tire pressure is too low, note the difference between the measured tire pressure and the correct tire pressure. These "missing" pounds of pressure are what you will need to add.
5. At a service station, add the missing pounds of air pressure to each tire that is under-inflated.
6. Check all the tires to make sure they have the same air pressure (except in cases in which the front and rear tires are supposed to have different amounts of pressure).

If you have been driving your vehicle and think that a tire is under-inflated, fill it to the recommended cold inflation pressure indicated on your vehicle's tire information placard or certification label. While your tire may still be slightly under-inflated due to the extra pounds of pressure in the warm tire, it is safer to drive with air pressure that is slightly lower than the vehicle manufacturer's recommended cold inflation pressure than to drive with a significantly under-inflated tire. Since this is a temporary fix, don't forget to recheck and adjust the tire's pressure when you can obtain a cold reading.

#### **4.6. TIRE SIZE**

To maintain tire safety, purchase new tires that are the same size as the vehicle's original tires or another size recommended by the manufacturer. Look at the tire information placard, the owner's manual, or the sidewall of the tire you are replacing to find this information. If you have any doubt about the correct size to choose, consult with the tire dealer.

#### **4.7. TIRE TREAD**

The tire tread provides the gripping action and traction that prevent your vehicle from slipping or sliding, especially when the road is wet or icy. In general, tires are not safe and should be replaced when the tread is worn down to 1/16 of an inch. Tires have built-in treadwear indicators that let you know when it is time to replace your tires. These indicators are raised sections spaced intermittently in the bottom of the tread grooves. When they appear "even" with the outside of the tread, it is time to replace your tires. Another method for checking tread depth is to place a penny in the tread with Lincoln's head upside down and facing you. If you can see the top of Lincoln's head, you are ready for new tires.

#### **4.8. TIRE BALANCE AND WHEEL ALIGNMENT**

To avoid vibration or shaking of the vehicle when a tire rotates, the tire must be properly balanced. This balance is achieved by positioning weights on the wheel to counterbalance heavy spots on the wheel-and-tire assembly. A wheel alignment adjusts the angles of the wheels so that they are positioned correctly relative to the vehicle's frame. This adjustment maximizes the life of your tires. These adjustments require special equipment and should be performed by a qualified technician.

#### **4.9. TIRE REPAIR**

The proper repair of a punctured tire requires a plug for the hole and a patch for the area inside the tire that surrounds the puncture hole. Punctures through the tread can be repaired if they are not too large, but punctures to the sidewall should not be repaired. Tires must be removed from the rim to be properly inspected before being plugged and patched.

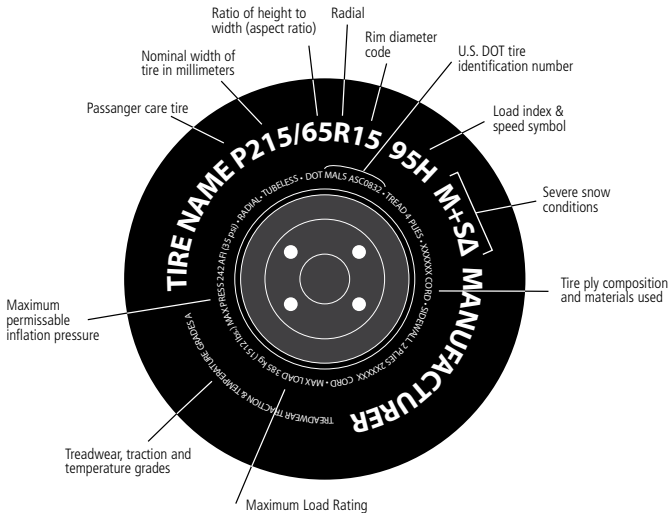
#### **4.10. TIRE FUNDAMENTALS**

Federal law requires tire manufacturers to place standardized information on the sidewall of all tires. This information identifies and describes the fundamental characteristics of the tire and also provides a tire identification number for safety standard certification and in case of a recall.



## 4.10.1. INFORMATION ON PASSENGER VEHICLE TIRES

Please refer to the diagram below.



### P

The "P" indicates the tire is for passenger vehicles.

### Next number

This three-digit number gives the width in millimeters of the tire from sidewall edge to sidewall edge. In general, the larger the number, the wider the tire.

### Next number

This two-digit number, known as the aspect ratio, gives the tire's ratio of height to width. Numbers of 70 or lower indicate a short sidewall for improved steering response and better overall handling on dry pavement.

### R

The "R" stands for radial. Radial ply construction of tires has been the industry standard for the past 20 years.

### Next number

This two-digit number is the wheel or rim diameter in inches. If you change your wheel size, you will have to purchase new tires to match the new wheel diameter.

### Next number

This two- or three-digit number is the tire's load index. It is a measurement of how much weight each tire can support. You may find this information in your owner's manual. If not, contact a local tire dealer. Note: You may not find this information on all tires because it is not required by law.

**M+S**

The “M+S” or “M/S” indicates that the tire has some mud and snow capability. Most radial tires have these markings; hence, they have some mud and snow capability.

**Speed Rating**

The speed rating denotes the speed at which a tire is designed to be driven for extended periods of time. The ratings range from 99 miles per hour (mph) to 186 miles per hour. These ratings are listed below. *Note: You may not find this information on all tires because it is not required by law.*

Letter Rating	Speed Rating
Q	99 mph
R	106 mph
S	112 mph
T	118 mph
U	124 mph
H	130 mph
V	149 mph
W	168* mph
Y	186* mph

\*For tires with a maximum speed capability over 149 mph, tire manufacturers sometimes use the letters ZR. For those with a maximum speed capability over 186 mph, tire manufacturers always use the letters ZR.

**U.S. DOT Tire Identification Number**

This begins with the letters “DOT” and indicates that the tire meets all federal standards. The next two numbers or letters are the plant code where it was manufactured, and the last four numbers represent the week and year the tire was built. For example, the numbers 3197 means the 31st week of 1997. The other numbers are marketing codes used at the manufacturer’s discretion. This information is used to contact consumers if a tire defect requires a recall.

**Tire Ply Composition and Materials Used**

The number of plies indicates the number of layers of rubber-coated fabric in the tire. In general, the greater the number of plies, the more weight a tire can support. Tire manufacturers also must indicate the materials in the tire, which include steel, nylon, polyester, and others.

**Maximum Load Rating**

This number indicates the maximum load in kilograms and pounds that can be carried by the tire.



Tires for light trucks have other markings besides those found on the sidewalls of passenger tires.

**LT**

The "LT" indicates the tire is for light trucks or trailers.

**ST**

An "ST" is an indication the tire is for trailer use only.

**Max. Load Dual kg (lbs) at kPa (psi) Cold**

This information indicates the maximum load and tire pressure when the tire is used as a dual, that is, when four tires are put on each rear axle (a total of six or more tires on the vehicle).

**Max. Load Single kg (lbs) at kPa (psi) Cold**

This information indicates the maximum load and tire pressure when the tire is used as a single.

**Load Range**

This information identifies the tire's load-carrying capabilities and its inflation limits.

**4.11. TIRE SAFETY TIPS****Preventing Tire Damage**

- Slow down if you have to go over a pothole or other object in the road.
- Do not run over curbs or other foreign objects in the roadway, and try not to strike the curb when parking.

**Tire Safety Checklist**

- Check tire pressure regularly (at least once a month), including the spare.
- Inspect tires for uneven wear patterns on the tread, cracks, foreign objects, or other signs of wear or trauma.
- Remove bits of glass and foreign objects wedged in the tread.
- Make sure your tire valves have valve caps.
- Check tire pressure before going on a long trip.
- Do not overload your vehicle. Check the Tire Information and Loading Placard or User's Manual for the maximum recommended load for the vehicle.





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