

TECHNICAL BULLETIN

Hankook Tire Replacement Recommendations: Tire Service Life for Passenger Car and Light Truck Tires

There is no hard and fast rule to measure the service life of a tire. Tires are made with various types of raw materials and a variety of rubber compounds all having varying performance properties. Once a tire is designed and manufactured to achieve a given performance property and then put into use, it is still subjected to varying condition such as weather, storage, and still further varying use conditions such as load, speed, inflation pressure, maintenance and road condition. Since all these factors and more affect the service life of a tire, it is not possible to predict with accuracy or scientific validity the service life of a tire.

Tires unquestionably degrade over time, whether in use or not in use. Some tire and vehicle manufacturers publish warnings to consumers regarding their products to the effect that tires should be replaced after six years from manufacture. Certain industry organizations have issued statements concurring with the six-year service life for tires. Depending on the severity of adverse use conditions or non-use, many tires degrade fast enough to require replacement before six years of service life. Others in perfectly favorable use conditions may enjoy a service life of more than six years.

The following recommendations are intended to give consumers some idea concerning the service life of a tire.

Hankook always insists and mandates that consumers properly maintain and periodically inspect their tires. As a precaution, Hankook recommends that all tires more than ten years old from their date of manufacture should be removed from service and replaced with new tires. This applies to spare tires as well. The date of manufacture can be determined by reading the Department of Transportation (DOT) code on the sidewall. The entire code will be printed on one side of the tire. The DOT code will end with the week and year of manufacture. For example, a tire with a DOT code reading 1GFN AVN 1408 was manufactured during the 14th week of 2008.

Consumers must regularly have their tires inspected by qualified tire dealers throughout the life of the tires. Further, tires that are over five years of age should be inspected at least twice a year and more frequently if the use is heavy.

Consumers must always be vigilant of their tires' performance, condition, inflation pressure, and any other issues that could affect the life of a tire. Consumers should properly maintain their tires, including ensuring proper inflation pressures, and regular inspections by tire service professionals. Failure to do so might result in performance loss and/or tire failure, resulting in vehicle damage, injury, or even death.

For original equipment tires acquired when purchasing a new vehicle, the consumer should follow all of the vehicle manufacturers' recommendations.

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