

Product: Vehicle Tyres



Overview: The same performance and safety may be expected from a retread tyre as from an equivalent new tyre, although public perception of retread tyres does not reflect this. The manufacturer must conform to standards ECE 108 for private light goods vehicle tyres, and ECE 109 for commercial vehicles tyres; these are the same standards as for new tyres. Each retread tyre should be marked with these standards and an identifier unique to that manufacturer on the side wall of at least one side of the tyre.

Environmental Impacts	Cost Effectiveness	Market Availability	Competitive Market	Resource Savings	Potential for Increased Procurement to Affect the Market
1) Energy and resource usage during production. 2) Effect on vehicle fuel efficiency. 3) End of life disposal - Landfill sites will no longer accept tyres. The problem of what to do with waste tyres is a growing one in the UK.	Retread tyres offer a small but real price benefit, whilst offering identical vehicle economy and handling characteristics.	The availability of all types of tyres is good. Core is plentiful, but the light vehicle market is currently operating at low levels.	The UK has a well developed network of competing tyre remanufacturers. The current activity is concentrated in the commercial / fleet management and aerospace sector, as the light vehicle market has been less successful.	Approximately 20 litres of oil is saved per car or light van tyre, while 68 litres is saved for each tyre on a commercial vehicle. ¹ The steel inner structure is reused thus removing the need for steel cord production. Tyres represent a large volume of waste arising in the UK every year, not all of which can currently be recycled.	The lack of knowledge about tyre construction and performance has led to the prevalence of cheap, low performance budget tyres being chosen over retreads. Tyres designed for retreading have a superior construction to those designed for single (budget) use. By demonstrating confidence in the quality of retreads, public procurement could improve public perception of retreads, thus increasing demand.

¹ Retread Manufacturers Association, www.retreaders.org.uk