

# SERVICE BULLETIN

No. 94  
April, 1997

To: All Customers

## SAFETY WARNING - SPEED RATED TIRES

This Service Bulletin is a reprint of Service Bulletin No. 85 which was issued in 1993, No. 78 issued in 1990 and No. 65 issued in 1987. A supply of new "Safety Warning Consumer Advisory" forms, which covers all speed rated tires produced by Cooper, is attached. This form has been revised to include "Y" and "W" speed symbols for the Z-rated tire lines.

### Introduction

The following is current information regarding speed rated tires. Please note that many of today's vehicles are equipped with speed rated tires. It is **NOT** recommended that tires on these vehicles be replaced with tires which exhibit a lower speed rating than those specified by the vehicle manufacturer.

### Safety Rules for Selection, Mixing, Repairing, Retreading or Alteration of Speed Rated Tires

You, as a dealer, may be placed in situations whereby the consumer will request and purchase tires with speed ratings other than those which came on the vehicle as original equipment.

It is important, for the safety of the consumer, that the following safety rules be followed in the selection, mixing, and servicing of speed rated tires.

- A. When replacement of tires is desired, consult the placard (normally located on the door frame or glove box door) or the owner's manual for correct size. If the tires shown on the vehicle placard do not have speed ratings, the appropriate size tire with any speed rating may be applied, if desired. When the placard tire size nomenclature contains a speed symbol, for example P205/60HR15, the replacement tire must have the same or higher speed rating symbol if the speed capability of the vehicle is to be maintained. **IF THE REPLACEMENT TIRE IS NOT SPEED RATED, OR HAS A LOWER SPEED RATING THAN INDICATED ON THE VEHICLE PLACARD, THE SPEED CAPABILITY OF THE VEHICLE IS LIMITED BY THE SPEED CAPABILITY OF THE REPLACEMENT TIRE.** A Cooper produced non-speed rated tire's maximum speed is 85 mph (137 km/h).

For the safety of the consumer, you must advise the consumer whenever replacement tires are purchased which lower the speed capability of the vehicle and a Safety Warning/Consumer Advisory Form must be filled out by you and signed by the consumer.

Follow the recommendations contained in RMA publications for other considerations in the selection of replacement tires.

B. Mixing

Be sure to follow RMA rules for tire mixing as shown on the "Replacement Guide for Passenger Car Tires" or "Tire Replacement Guide for Light Trucks" wall charts. IF TIRES OF DIFFERENT SPEED RATINGS ARE MOUNTED ON A VEHICLE, THE TIRE WITH THE LOWEST SPEED RATING WILL LIMIT PERMISSIBLE TIRE RELATED VEHICLE SPEED. This must be explained to the consumer and a Safety-Warning/Consumer Advisory Form filled out by you and signed by the consumer.

If any replacement tire is not speed rated, the speed capability of the vehicle is limited by the maximum speed of that tire (85 mph for Cooper produced tires).

C. Retreading, Repairing, or Alteration of Speed Rated Tires

See the recommended procedures for use by tire dealers and service stations for repairing tubeless passenger car tires as detailed and illustrated on the RMA Puncture Repair Procedures for Automobile Tires wall chart APRP-887.

SPEED RATING NO LONGER APPLIES TO A COOPER PRODUCED TIRE THAT HAS BEEN ALTERED (for example, by retreading or repairing).

When a Cooper produced speed rated tire has been repaired, retreaded, or altered you must advise the consumer that the tire no longer is speed rated. A Safety Warning/Consumer Advisory Form must be filled out by you and signed by the consumer. WHEN A COOPER PRODUCED SPEED RATED TIRE HAS BEEN REPAIRED, RETREADED, OR ALTERED, THE SPEED RATING SYMBOL (i.e., "H", "S", etc.) MUST ALSO BE REMOVED FROM THE TIRE. The speed symbol in the tire size markings (both upper sidewall and bead area) and in the service description (near upper sidewall size marking) can be removed by lightly buffing with an electric or pneumatic hand buffer, being careful not to buff down below the contour or surface of the tire sidewall.

Safety Warning/Consumer Advisory Form

A supply of Safety Warning/Consumer Advisory Forms is enclosed for your use. As mentioned above, this form must be completed and signed by the consumer each time (i) a tire(s) which carries a lower speed rating (including non-speed rated) than that which appears on the vehicle placard or glove box door is installed on a vehicle, or (ii) tires of different speed ratings (including non-speed rated) are installed on a vehicle, or (iii) a Cooper produced speed rated tire has been repaired, retreaded, or altered.

The original copy of the Safety Warning/Consumer Advisory Form should be given to the consumer and you should keep the dealer copy in a permanent file for your protection.

If you wholesale tires to other dealers (sub-dealers), each must receive a copy of this Service Bulletin and a supply of Safety Warning/Consumer Advisory Forms. Please advise Cooper of the number of Service Bulletins and Safety Warning/Consumer Advisory Forms that are needed for your sub-dealers and we will provide them to you at no charge. You may order the Service Bulletins and Safety Warning/Consumer Advisory Forms through the Consumer Relations Department, Cooper Tire & Rubber Company, Findlay, Ohio 45840.

Should you have any questions concerning the above, please contact the Consumer Relations Department at 800-854-6288.

Attachment: Safety Warning/Consumer Advisory Form 860-K71-4601 1/97

## SERVICING DEALER INSTRUCTION:

This form must be completed and signed by the consumer each time (i) a tire (s) which carries a lower speed rating (including non-speed rated) than that which appears on the vehicle placard or glove box door is installed on a vehicle (ii) tires of different speed rating ( including non-speed rated) are installed on a vehicle, or (iii) a Cooper produced speed rated tire has been repaired, retreaded or altered.

# SAFETY WARNING CONSUMER ADVISORY

THE MAXIMUM TIRE RELATED VEHICLE SPEED IS DETERMINED BY THE TIRE WITH THE LOWEST SPEED RATING, AS INDICATED BELOW.

SPEED SYMBOL	SPEED CATEGORY	OPEN-ENDED CATEGORY
	**above 240 km/h ( 149 mph)	↑ **ZR
Y*	300 km/h (186 mph)	
W*	270 km/h (168 mph)	
V* (with service description)	240 km/h (149 mph)	
H*	210 km/h (130 mph)	
U*	200 km/h (124 mph)	
T*	190 km/h (118 mph)	
S*	180 km/h (112 mph)	
R*	170 km/h (106 mph)	
Q*	160 km/h (99 mph)	
P*	150 km/h (93 mph)	
N*	140 km/h (87 mph)	
M*	130 km/h (81 mph)	

\*\*Based upon indoor wheel tests conducted in accordance with the Procedure for Load/Speed Performance Tests of the Economic Commission for Europe ( ECE-30)

\*\* For tires having a maximum speed capability above 240 km/h (149 mph), a ""ZR"" may appear in the size designation. For tires having a maximum speed capability above 300 km/h (186 mph), a ""ZR"" must appear in the size designation. Consult tire manufacturer for maximum speed when there is no Service Description.

WHILE A SPEED SYMBOL IS AN INDICATION OF THE SPEED CAPABILITY OF THE TIRE, WE DO NOT ENDORSE THE OPERATION OF ANY VEHICLE IN AN UNSAFE OR UNLAWFUL MANNER.

*I have been advised of a telephone number I can call if I have further questions (1-800-854-6288)*

### ACKNOWLEDGED:

Customer Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Dealer Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, \_\_\_\_\_ State, \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Dealer Signature \_\_\_\_\_

CONSUMER RELATIONS