

# **Snow tyres provisions - status report**

Submitted by the group of interested experts (GOIE) from Finland, Germany, Japan, Norway, Russian Federation, BIPAVÉR, ETRTO and OICA

# Objective of the considerations by the GOIE

- To develop snow tyre provisions in case if needed or required to **all** C1, C2 and C3 tyres (including retreaded tyres) for use on M , N and O vehicle categories, as it is already existing for snow tyres (R117) and to introduce the same provisions in R108 and R109.
- Designation of tyres for use in winter/snow conditions.
- Marking these tyres to reflect on their designation.
- **Appropriate qualification criteria for tyres designated for use in winter / snow conditions.**

# Activities related to this subject since 70<sup>th</sup> session of GRBP

- Meeting (in person + Webex) of interested experts, November 5<sup>th</sup> 2019 (9:00 – 16:00) hosted by ETRTO in Brussels; attended by delegations of Finland, Germany, Japan, Norway, BIPAVÉR, ETRTO and OICA; input to the meeting received from Russian Federation in written form.
- Meeting (Webex) of interested experts, December 13<sup>th</sup> 2019 (08:00 – 10:00) hosted by ETRTO; attended by delegations of Finland, Germany, Japan, Norway, Russian Federation, BIPAVÉR, ETRTO and OICA; input to the meeting received from Sweden in written form.

# Status of questions raised during 70<sup>th</sup> session of GRBP

- EC raised the question on the new proposed noise limits (allowances) proposed by GOIE, that are considered as a less stringent and need to be aligned with the new GSR.
- Netherland raised the question how GOIE established the new limit values and based on which data.
- Switzerland raised the question why additional limit value benefits need to be introduced as these tyres already designed for harsh surfaces.
- OICA asked for explanation, what is exactly this new class.  
=> Action: GOIE has prepared additional explanations and evidence to be presented to EC and to GRBP.
- China stated that selection of tyres used for R51 noise tests and wording for definitions in R54, R30 and R117 are confusing; GOIE need to consider Informal document GRB 68-02.  
=> Action: OICA will prepare informal document considering the response to China document GRB 68-02 and amendment proposal to R51 and R117.

# Status of request directed to CP's by GOIE during 70th session of GRBP

- GOIE requests opinion of CP's without representation in the GOIE on the necessity of integrating Professional Off Road (POR) tyres in Regulation No. 117 for snow performance only, in order to assess the cost-benefit ratio for developing new test methods => **no reply so far.**
- GOIE invites CP's to share their experiences on use of POR tyres in winter conditions, if available, to GRBP => **response from Norway, Russian Federation and Sweden was received.**
- GOIE requests opinion of CP's without representation in the GOIE on integrating studded tyres in Regulation No. 117 for snow performance only, concerning potential issues for WVTA and road use / traffic regulations => response from OICA was received during GOIE Meeting November 2019, and **response from Russian Federation as the only CP.**

# Outcome of the GOIE meetings

GOIE agreed:

- not to integrate Professional Off Road (POR) tyres in Regulation No. 117 for snow performance only and to keep the decision, taken by GRRF during 74<sup>th</sup> session, to exclude (POR) tyres from Regulation No. 117 concerning application to all performance criteria.
- not to develop a new test method for snow performance for crane tyres not in the scope of Regulation No. 117.
- that all investigations to consider all tyre categories have been completed for new tyres, and need to be adapted for retreaded tyres (R108 and R109).

Subject for endorsement by GRBP:

- to establish a new Task Force for drafting new “Regulation on Uniform provisions concerning the approval of studded tyres with regard to snow performance”;  
The proposal from the GOIE is to assign the duties of the Chair and Secretary to Finland / ETRTO.

# Next meeting(s)

- GOIE will have a webconference to prepare the amendment proposal to R108 and R109 (placeholder 28/2/2020).
- GOIE may introduce the technical rationale by ETRTO for the proposed requirements for the new category of tyres 'Special use tyre that is classified as tyre for use in severe snow conditions' to the European Commission - Working Group on Motor Vehicles.
- All CP's implementing rules for tyre use on roads under winter / snow conditions, in particular for studded tyres, are invited to participate in the proposed new Task Force (if endorsed by GRBP).