



VEHICLE EQUIPMENT SAFETY COMMISSION

Regulation VESC-7

SAFE OPERATING CONDITION OF
TIRES INCLUDING TIRE TREAD DEPTH REQUIREMENTS

(Passenger Car Type Tires)

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**SAFE OPERATING CONDITION OF
TIRES INCLUDING TIRE TREAD DEPTH REQUIREMENTS**

1. Purpose and Scope:

- 1.1 This regulation embodies criteria for the safety of tires for passenger cars, station wagons and other highway use vehicles using passenger car type tires as established by the motor vehicle regulatory authority of this state.

2. Definitions:

- 2.1 The term "Passenger Car" as hereinafter referred to within this regulation shall include within its meaning "Station Wagon" or "other highway use vehicles using passenger car type tires".

- 2.2 The term "Commissioner" as hereinafter referred to within this regulation shall mean the appropriate state official or state agency responsible for promulgating rules and regulations governing the use of motor vehicles over the highways of the state.

3. Application:

- 3.1 This regulation applies to all "Passenger Cars" as herein defined in 2.1 and tires as herein defined in 1.1 of this regulation.

4. Promulgated Rules and Regulations:

- 4.1 The Commissioner shall promulgate rules setting forth requirements of safe operating condition, capable of being employed by a law enforcement officer for visual inspection of tires mounted on passenger cars, including visual comparison with simple measuring gauges. These rules shall include effects of tread wear and depth of tread and shall include and be based upon, to the extent that it is reasonable and practical, all provisions set forth in section 5.1 of this regulation.

- 4.2 No person shall drive, move or cause to be driven or moved by any passenger car upon the highways of this state, unless such passenger car is equipped with tires in safe operating condition in accordance with requirements approved by the Commissioner.

5. Unsafe Tires:

5.1

A tire shall be considered unsafe if it has:

- a. Any part of the ply or cord exposed.
- b. Any bump, bulge or separation.
- c. A tread design depth of less than 2/32nds (1/16th) of an inch measured in any two or more adjacent tread grooves at three locations equally spaced around the circumference of the tire, at least one of which shall be at the point where the tread is thinnest, exclusive of tie bars or for those tires with tread wear indicators.
- d. Worn to the level of the tread wear indicators in any two tread grooves at three locations.
- e. A marking "not for highway use", or "for racing purposes only"; or "unsafe for highway use".
- f. Tread or sidewall cracks, cuts or snags deep enough to expose the body cords.
- g. Such other conditions or markings as may be reasonably demonstrated to render the tire unsafe for highway use.
- h. Been regrooved or recut below the original tread design depth, except special taxi cab tires which have extra undertread rubber and are identified as such.

6. Enforcement Procedure:

6.1

Any law enforcement officer, at any time, upon reasonable cause to believe that a passenger car is equipped with tires in violation of the provisions of this title, or of the rules promulgated hereunder, may require the operator of such passenger car to stop and submit such passenger car to an inspection. If the inspection discloses that the tires of such passenger car are in violation, the officer may issue a citation for such violation, and such defect shall be corrected forthwith. Evidence of the correction of the defect shall be furnished to the appropriate commissioner or state agency within fifteen (15) days, or such period of time as each state may deem necessary, after date of issuance of such citation.

7. Sale of Unsafe Tires:

7.1

No person or organization shall sell or offer for sale, other than to a motor vehicle dealer, any passenger car for use on the public highways of this state, unless the passenger car is equipped with tires that are in compliance with the rules

and regulations as shall be promulgated by the Commissioner under authority of Section 4.1 of this regulation. If the tires are not in compliance with such rules and regulations, the person or organization selling or offering to sell such passenger car shall cause (prior to sale) such tires to be removed from the vehicle and shall equip the vehicle with tires that are in compliance with such rules and regulations. No person, firm, corporation or organization shall sell or offer for sale, other than to a tire dealer, tires for highway use not in compliance with these rules and regulations.

8. Penalties:

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Each failure to comply with the provisions of this regulation or the rules promulgated hereunder shall be punishable as provided by law.

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