

Snow tyre activities - status report

Submitted by the group of interested experts from
Germany, ETRTO, Japan and Russian Federation

Activities related to this subject since 83rd session of GRRF

- GRRF 3PMSF - Meeting of interested experts, June 2nd 2017, at Brussels, hosted by ETRTO. Attended by ETRTO, Japan and Germany
- Meeting for review and alignment with Russian Federation, June 8th 2017 at Moscow
- GRRF 3PMSF - Meeting of interested experts, September 20th 2017, at Geneva. Attended by ETRTO, Japan, Russian Federation and Germany

Objective

To define appropriate qualification test method/procedure and threshold for tyres designated for use in snow conditions.

Comments:

- All those tyres are performing better on snow
- Among those, **Special use tyres** are designed to perform better in off road conditions. Several vehicles, like snow pluggers, need those tyres. Therefore the group recommends to define a test and threshold to allow their use on snow roads
- Among those, **Studded tyres** need to comply with the 3PMSF requirements but are not covered by R117 to bear the 3PMSF marking
- Those tyres need to be recognised by means of specific marking usable for police, enforcement and customers.

Proposal for Qualification Test Method

The group considers that 3PMSF test method as in R 117 is appropriate.

- For **Special Use tyres** the Test method should be the same as in R117, but threshold to be different. Different threshold to be defined due to tread-block design, required for off-road performances
- For **Studded tyres**: 3PMSF threshold should be the same as in R117. For the test method the presumption is that studable tyres can be tested only without studs, implying that the studded tyres will perform even better (to be demonstrated).

Potential candidates for qualification for 3PMSF marking

- M+S
- ET, ML, MPT, POR, DP
- Studded tyres
- AT tyres

Options for Regulatory Scenarios

- Integrate Snow Performance test and marking in R30 & R54
- Integrate Special use and Studded Tyres in R117 for Snow performance only
- Establish a Separate UN Regulation for Snow Performance
- Create a new UN Regulation combining R30, R54 & R117 (+ transposing UN GTR 16 provisions).

Group recommendation:

- Integrate Special use and Studded Tyres in R117 for Snow performance only
- Extend scope of R117 accordingly.

Justification

- Why to integrate Special use and Studded Tyres in R117 for Snow performance only?
 - Driving regulations are requesting 3PMSF marking, that is available in R117
 - Most feasible approach
 - Family concept present in R117 (worst case approach)
 - Existing test method in R117.

Action Plan

- To develop relevant amendments to R117
- This development will be done by the group of interested experts, which will take some time, especially taking into account the need to define a new threshold for Special use tyres in snow conditions
- For transparency reasons, the information can be found on the designated UNECE webpage associated with informal working groups reporting to GRRF (subject to confirmation by UNECE secretariat)
- Group of interested experts will start drafting the proposal for amendment to R117.

The group of interested experts is asking GRRF to consider and endorse this approach.