

EU drivers still under-inflate their tyres

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Brussels -- In a new survey, Bridgestone has found that 71% of motorists in Europe are driving on under-inflated tyres, wasting 2 billion litres of fuel a year, and adding 4.8 million tons of CO2 emissions.

Bridgestone checked the tyre condition of 38,000 cars in 9 European countries in 2010. The results show that 71 percent of motorists are driving on under-inflated tyres. Bridgestone calculates that this habit is leading to the equivalent of 2 billion tons of wasted fuel worth €2.8 billion a year. For the environment this means 4.8 million tons of additional and unnecessary CO2 emissions annually – the equivalent of 1.8 g/km for every car on the road.

Analysis of these test results show that 7.5 percent of motorists are driving on seriously underinflated tyres (at least 0.5 bar below recommended pressure) and 0.5 percent are putting their safety at high risk by driving on severely under-inflated tyres (at least 0.75 bar below recommended pressure).

Almost 12 percent of tyres on the road are also worn down below the E.U. legal minimum of 1.6 mm tread depth. Around 2 percent of inspected tyres are both severely worn and severely under inflated.

Bridgestone's study this year covered slightly fewer vehicles -- 38,200 vehicles in 9 countries. Last year the company looked at 52,400 vehicles in 15 countries.