

Tyres

Practical skills

Reading the sidewall, checking pressure and depth, and when to replace.

A sidewall marking like 205/55 R16 91V.

Marking	Means
205	Width in mm
55	Sidewall height as % of width
R	Radial construction
16	Wheel diameter in inches
91	Load index
V	Speed rating
DOT code	Week and year of manufacture

Legal minimum tread in the UK and EU is 1.6 mm across the central three-quarters. Wet performance falls off sharply below 3 mm.