

Passenger Tyre sizing is typically displayed as:

P215/65R15 89H

The details of the tyre's size will be displayed on the Sidewall of the tyre. These markings provide much more information than simply the size of your tyre. They also provide valuable information about the tyre's speed rating, load capacity, construction and more. This key will help you read the tyre size on the sidewall like an expert:

SERVICE TYPE

This indicates what type of vehicle or service that the tyre is intended to be used for. The "P" Stands for "P-Metric" or Passenger. This means that it is a North American tyre sizing designation, as European tyres typically don't have the "P" attached to the size. "LT" stands for "Light Truck," which is found on tyres with higher ply ratings. Tyres with an "LT" rating are designed to be used on vehicles that will carry heavy cargo or towing large trailers. It is very common for light trucks and SUVs to come with "P" – rated tyres, but you should never substitute a "P-metric" tyre for an "LT metric" tyre, even if all other dimensions are the same. You can check your vehicle manual to verify what rating is appropriate for your vehicle. You may also come across vehicle sizes that begin with a "T", which designates the tyre as a "Temporary Spare." As the name suggests, "Temporary Spares" should only be driven briefly, until the flat is repaired or replaced.

SECTION WIDTH

The "215" is the width of a tyre, also known as the "section width". This is the width of the tyre in millimetres at its widest point from side wall to side wall when mounted on the recommended rim width. The actual tyre width can vary depending on the rim width it is mounted on.

ASPECT RATIO

The "65" is known as the Aspect Ratio. It is calculated by dividing the section height by the section width and multiplying by 100. (In this example, the sidewall will be 65% of 215).

CONSTRUCTION TYPE

This indicates the construction type. In this example, the "R" stands for Radial, meaning it has a radial construction. Radial tyres have ply cords that extend to the beads and are laid at 90 degrees to the centre line of the tread, the carcass being stabilized by a circumferential belt. Other possibilities include "B" for belted construction and "D" for diagonal construction. This means the ply cords extend to the beads and are laid at alternate angles less than 90 degrees to the centreline of the tread.

WHEEL DIAMETER

The "15" stands for the diameter of the wheel in inches. This is the exact size that this tyre will fit. There are some older rims called "TRX" which are metric measurements like 390. You CANNOT mix TRX rims with regular tyres or vice versa.

LOAD RATING

The "89" is the load index. The load index indicates the amount of weight that each tyre is able to support.

SPEED RATING

The "H" is the speed rating symbol. This represents the top safe speed that the tyre was designed for, which is also a good indicator of how the tyre will perform at lower speeds.