

## UNIFORM TYRE QUALITY GRADING

The Uniform Tyre Quality Grading (UTQG) rating is a quality rating system developed by the American Department of Transportation. It is designed to tell consumers the relative performance of passenger tyres, by evaluating the tyre in three areas: treadwear, traction and temperature. The UTQG does not apply to winter tyres). Below is an example of a UTQG Rating

150A B

150

The "150" indicates the treadwear rating

A

The "A" indicates traction

B

The "B" indicates temperature

## TREADWEAR RATING

This number can be used to compare between tyres. In the above example, this tyre rated 150 should last 1/2 as long as a tyre rated 300. This number does not guarantee the life of your tyre. The life of your tyre will be affected by factors like how you drive, how well you maintain your vehicle, weather, etc.

**How It Works:** This 7,200 mile wear test is performed on a 400 mile government test course covering specified sections of public roads in Texas. A group of not more than 4 test vehicles travels the course in a convoy so that all tyres experience the same conditions. After each 800 miles, the tread groove depths of the tyres being tested are measured. The same procedure is followed for a set of "control" or "course monitoring tyres." Upon the completion of the 7,200 mile test, the rating results of both tyres are compared, and the tyres being tested are assigned a treadwear rating according to government standards. The relative performance of tyres depends upon the actual conditions of their use and may be significantly different from the norm due to differences in road characteristics and climate.

## TRACTION RATING

The Traction ratings are AA, A, B, and C, from highest to lowest, with a Crating meeting the government's minimum requirements for traction. This measurement indicates a tyre's ability to stop in a straight line on wet pavement. It's important to note that this rating does not indicate the tyre's ability to resist hydroplaning, and does not apply to cornering traction.

**How It Works:** The rating is based on a 40mph test where the brakes are "locked up" on wet asphalt and wet concrete surfaces. This is done by installing test tyres on an axle of a traction trailer, which is towed by a truck at over 40mph over wet asphalt and concrete. The tow truck has a non-board water system that provides a constant spray of water in front of the test tyre. The brakes are then locked up, and the sensors on the axle measure its performance.

## TEMPERATURE RATING

These measurements indicate the tyre's ability to sustain high temperatures, which often cause tyres to wear away quickly or, in extreme conditions, lead to sudden tyre failure. This is indicative of a tyre's ability to run at high speeds. Tyres are rated with A, B, or C for temperature rating, with A being the highest possible rating.

**How It Works:** Temperature ratings are determined by running tyres on an indoor road wheel test under specified conditions. Successive 30 minute runs are made in 5mph increments starting at 75mph and continuing until the tyre fails. Tyres with an A rating must withstand at least 114mph, B at least 99mph, and C at least 85mph. These ratings are established for tyres that are being used properly-excessive speed, underinflated tyres, or excessive loads can cause heat build-up and possible tyre failure.

It is important to note that, although the rating system was developed by the American Department of Transportation, the tests are performed by independent testing companies, hired by the manufacturers.

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