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October 31, 2012

## Laws Regulating Tire Repair in the United States

There have been recent reports that certain repairs are "ILLEGAL" on tires operating in various countries or states in North America. We want to clarify statements of this type by explaining the following –

There are presently no Federal or State laws regarding repairs done to tires in the United States.

If repairs are restricted it is usually driven by the fleet or customer as a specification, which could be the outcome from a prior negative experience. If someone chooses not to run repaired tires on a steer axle, that is a fleet spec, not a law. If section repairs are not permitted on drive tires, it is a fleet spec, not a law.

There is a move by the RMA to legislate what would be an "improper repair", but so far this has not passed in any State legislative session. Their meaning of an improper repair is not based on the actual size of any repair material used, but rather, only the diameter of the injury, what methods, or lack of procedure, determines if it is improper. The TIA (Tire Industry Association) is taking a different approach attempting to define what constitutes a "proper" repair method, rather than an improper method.

Ultimately, if either one of these approaches were determined to be worthy of passage into a law by any State, the repair patch size would not be defined in the legislation other than the maximum penetration diameter. Why? Because each tire manufacturer and repair material manufacturer make those assessments based on testing. Then their charts reflect acceptable recommendations on patch size.

Each repair material manufacturer has material charts that sometimes conflict from manufacturer to manufacturer. The chart from Brand X may differ from Brand Y. Each brand "recommends" a specific size repair but deviating from the chart does not make that choice illegal. It just goes outside the recommendations from the material manufacturer. Deviation does however open a repair facility to liability risk for not using the materials as recommended by the manufacturer, but it is not illegal.