

# THE SIDEWALL STORY

A lot can be learned by reading the tire's sidewall. The following illustrations show typical information on the sidewall of passenger car and light truck tires.

Illustration No. 1 depicts the typical information on the sidewall of a passenger car tire:

**"P215/65R15 95H"** Size marking and Service Description (load index, speed symbol) for a P-Metric speed-rated passenger tire. Tire sizes with a series (profile) use a number such as "65", "70", "75", or "80", to indicate tire's profile or height to width ratio. For example, as illustration 1A shows, "65 Series" means that the tire's sidewall is approximately 65% as high as it is wide.

**"RADIAL"** Every radial construction tire must show the word "radial" on the sidewall.

**"MAX. LOAD 685 KG (1510 LBS) 240 kPa (35 PSI) MAXIMUM PRESSURE"** Indicates load limits and corresponding minimum cold inflation pressure for that load. P-Metric sidewall markings are given in both metric and English units.

**For normal operation, follow pressure recommendations in owner's manual, on vehicle tire information placard, or on the certification label.**

Note: The operating pressure is based on a number of factors (like load), and so **may not be the same** as the maximum inflation pressure on the tire's

sidewall. For example, the U.S. Department of Transportation now allows 240 kPa (35 psi), 300 kPa (44 psi), or 350 kPa (51 psi) inflation pressures for standard load tires, but, **no increase in the tire's load** (from that of the 240 pressure) is allowed.

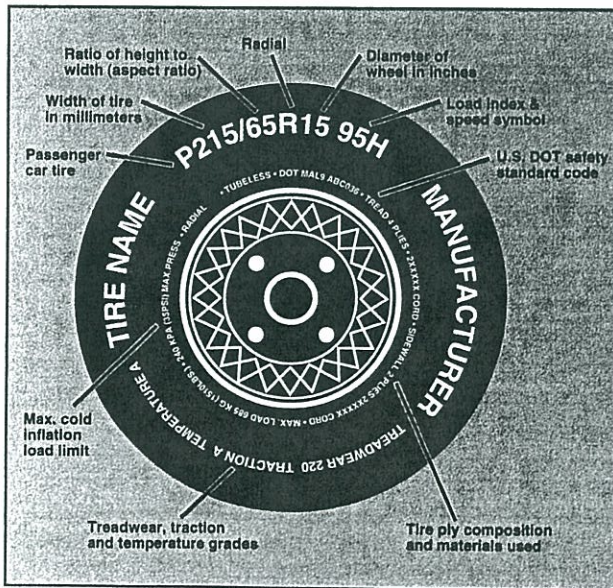
**"TREAD 4 PLYS 2 XXX CORD 2 XXXX CORD SIDEWALL 2 PLYS XXXX CORD"** 4 plies under tread (2 xxx cord 2 xxx cord), 2 plies in sidewall (xxxx cord) indicates tire ply composition and materials used.

**"DOT XXXX XXXXXX"** The "DOT" symbol certifies tire manufacturer's compliance with U.S. Department of Transportation tire safety standards. Next to this is the tire identification or "serial number". The last three characters are numbers identifying the week and year of manufacture. (Example: "025" means second week of the year or decade, e.g.: 1995, 1985, etc.) Other characters are the manufacturer's coding for size/type and plant of manufacture.

For the 1990-1999 decade some tires may be marked with a symbol (such as an isosceles right triangle) pointing to the identification number.

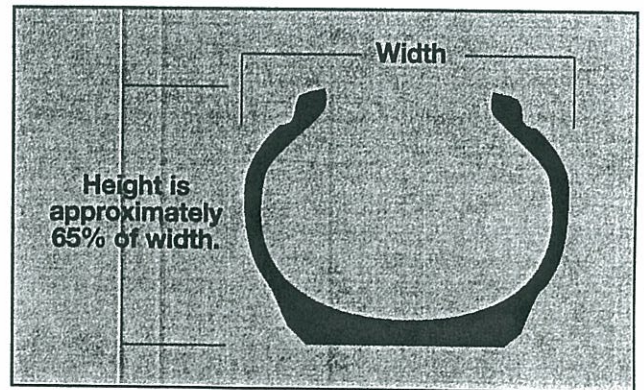
**"TUBELESS"** The tire must be marked either "tubeless" or "tube type".

Illustration 1



Typical Passenger Car Tire Sidewall

Illustration 1A



Series (Profile)