

## Tyre Maintenance and Repair

For further information please write to the Manager, Vehicle Safety Branch  
60 Denmark Street, Kew, 3101 or contact your local Registration Office.

January 2000

The purpose of this information sheet is to emphasise the importance of properly maintained and repaired tyres.

Tyres are the only parts of the vehicle in contact with the road. Safety in acceleration, braking, steering and cornering depends totally on this relatively small contact area. Therefore, it is essential for your safety that tyres are always maintained in the best possible condition.

All tyres fitted to a vehicle must be of a type constructed for normal road use and must have a minimum tread depth of 1.5mm at any point on the tread normally in contact with the road surface other than at the tread wear indicators. Where tread wear indicators are provided the tread must not be worn to the extent that any part of the indicator contacts the road surface.

### MAINTENANCE

The tyre pressure should be regularly checked and adjusted to the recommended pressure as necessary. The valve cap, which is considered the primary seal, must be firmly screwed on to the valve after checking and adjusting the tyre pressures. The tyres should also be checked to ensure they are free from any cuts, cracks, bulges or any other damage or defects likely to cause failure of the tyre. Any tyre with this type of damage or deterioration must be removed from the vehicle.

### REPAIRS

In order to ensure that tyres are repaired correctly and continue to be considered roadworthy the repair procedure adopted by the Australian Tyre Manufacturer's Association should be followed.

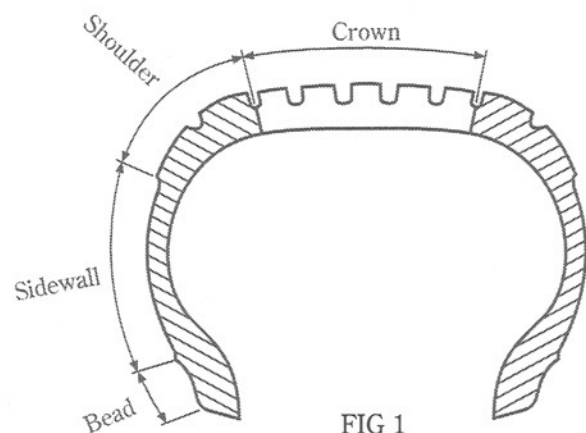
Tyres which have tread or casing separation or other damage such as broken, kinked or exposed bead wires, or cracks or cuts which extend into the tyre fabric should not be repaired.

Radial ply passenger car tyres may only be repaired in the crown area. (see figure 1.) Repairs of any type are not permitted in the bead, sidewall, or shoulder area of the tyre.

In order to carry out a satisfactory permanent repair the tyre must be removed from the rim as this is the only way to adequately assess the condition of the tyre. The tyre must be carefully examined for any damage or faults which would make it unsafe for further use. If the tyre is suitable for repair the area to be repaired must then be properly prepared on the inside of the tyre and an appropriate patch or mushroom headed plug installed and vulcanised from the inside. In all repairs external damage must be properly sealed to prevent moisture and contaminants from entering the structure of the tyre carcass.

Repair of punctures in tubeless tyres by insertion of plugs or loops of adhesive or sealant impregnated cord without removing the tyre from the rim is not a satisfactory procedure. This method is acceptable only as an emergency repair in exceptional circumstances to enable the vehicle to be driven to a service centre where proper repairs can be made.

If you have any doubt regarding the condition of the tyres on your vehicle or doubts regarding the quality of repairs you should contact a reputable tyre dealer where the tyres can be examined and if necessary correctly repaired or replaced.



Repairs are only allowed in the crown area of the tyre as illustrated by the unshaded area of the above illustration. Repairs are not permitted in the bead, sidewall or shoulder area of the tyre.

