



MEDIA INFORMATION

25th May 2010

Millions of motorists at risk this bank holiday

Research by Micheldever Tyres Services, the UK's leading independent tyre dealer network, has shown that over 30 percent of cars coming into the company's flagship outlet in Hampshire have at least one illegal tyre – up from 19 percent one year ago. The worrying research also shows that over 80 percent of cars have badly worn tyres, with a tread depth below 2mm, and in need of urgent replacement.

As signs of economic recovery begin to appear, it is still clear however that consumers are putting off the replacement of dangerous tyres with a tread depth below the legal minimum of 1.6mm in an attempt to save money. Paul Fox, Chief Executive of Micheldever Tyres Services, commented: "The reality is that delaying the replacement of badly worn tyres is a false economy that places drivers, their passengers and other road users at serious risk."

With over 31 million cars registered in the UK, the figure suggests that up to 9.5 million motorists could be flouting the law by driving on unsafe tyres. Defective, badly worn and under inflated tyres will certainly compromise safe stopping distances; they will also use more fuel and contribute to an increase in emissions.

All 49 Micheldever/Protyre outlets will offer motorists a free tyre safety check which will include tread depth, tyre pressures, uneven wear due to misalignment, general condition and tyre age. Motorists do not have to make an appointment – just call into a company outlet and ask for the free safety check. Full details of the location of all company locations can be found on www.protyre.co.uk

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Find your local Protyre outlet visit www.Protyre.co.uk. Or call in to your local Protyre centre for a free tyre safety check.

For further press information please contact Chris Wakley or Tom Callow at Automotive PR on 020 7494 8050 or email cwakley@automotivepr.com or tcallow@automotivepr.com



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About Micheldever Tyre Services & Protyre

Micheldever Tyre Services (MTS) was founded in 1972 as a part-time venture providing car servicing and tyres. Today, the company is the largest independent wholesaler, distributor and retailer of tyres in the UK. Selling over six million tyres in 2009/10 – 20 percent of the total UK market – annual turnover for 2009/10 was £276 million. In addition to offering MTS car, motorcycle and off-road tyres MTS also fits exhausts, brakes and shock absorbers.

MTS has two main business units:

- The Protyre retail chain, currently with 49 outlets including Protyre Motorsport, continues to gain geographic coverage in the UK through new acquisitions.
- MTS has established a wholesale distribution network of 14 sites around the UK supplying over 4,500 retailers nationwide. This activity has resulted in significant profitable growth for the company.

MTS is managed by a team headed by Paul Fox and Richard Sawney with backing from Graphite Capital and Royal Bank of Scotland (RBS).