

Legislative Report

By Terry Leveille
President of T.L. & Associates



Legislation:

Because 2010 is the second year of the Legislative Session, the bill deadlines are much tighter. Already we have a bill in the hopper that would affect tire dealers:

AB 323 (Yamada, D-Davis) was resurrected from last year's legislative scrap heap. You might remember that in 2009 the bill would have required tire dealers to disclose the date a tire was manufactured and would have required tire dealers to post a sign warning customers of the risk of driving on tires older than six years.

This year, Assembly Member Yamada has eliminated reference to the six-year old tire "risk," but still wants anyone selling and/or installing replacement tires to disclose the date the tires were manufactured on the invoice.

After thinking about this requirement for some time, here are my thoughts:

1) It is considered a "consumer friendly" bill that will be very difficult to oppose. There is no reference to the "tire age" issue, which ultimately led to the bill's defeat last year.

2) This bill may offset efforts to reintroduce AB 496 (Davis, D-Los Angeles), which would require tire dealers to do the following:

--Disclose the age of new and used tires in a written statement at the time of the sale. The customer must then initial the statement.

--Provide a written disclosure to the customer prior to installation or sale about tire aging. The disclosure says, ***"Tires deteriorate with age, even if they have never or seldom been used. As tires age they are more prone to sudden failure that can cause a vehicle to crash. This applies also to the spare tire and tires that are stored for future use. Heat caused by hot climates or frequent high loading conditions can accelerate the aging process. Most vehicle manufacturers recommend that tires be replaced after six years, regardless of the remaining tread depth."***

3) As long as all replacement tires have an easy to identify date after DOT (first two numbers being the week of the year and second two numbers being the last two digits of the year), and as long as all tire dealers know where to find that date, then it may provide an opportunity for tire dealer-customer communication. The customer may come