
TIRE INFORMATION SERVICE BULLETIN

USTMA SNOW TIRE DEFINITIONS FOR PASSENGER AND LIGHT TRUCK TIRES

Passenger and light truck tires meeting the following criteria are marked on at least one sidewall with the letters “M” and “S” (e.g., MS, M/S, M&S, M+S, etc.).

These tires have been designed to provide better starting, stopping, and driving performance in snow conditions than non-M&S tires, and have the following general characteristics:

1. The new tire tread shall have multiple pockets or slots in at least one tread edge that meet the following requirements based on mold dimensions:
 - a. Extend toward the tread center at least 1/2 inch from the footprint edge, measured perpendicularly to the tread centerline.
 - b. A minimum cross-sectional width of 1/16 inch.
 - c. Edges of pockets or slots at angles between 35 and 90 degrees from the direction of travel.

2. The new tire tread contact surface void area will be a minimum of 25% based on mold dimensions.

[NOTE: For the USTMA Severe Snow Use Tire Definition, refer to Tire Information Service Bulletin Volume 37, “USTMA Definition for Passenger and Light Truck Tires for Use in Snow Conditions.”]

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