

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON

RESTRICTED

TBT/Notif.89.33

31 January 1989

TARIFFS AND TRADE

Special Distribution

Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade

NOTIFICATION

The following notification is being circulated in accordance with Article 10.4.

1. Party to Agreement notifying: <u>UNITED STATES</u>
2. Agency responsible: National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (276)
3. Notified under Article 2.5.2 [X], 2.6.1 [], 7.3.2 [], 7.4.1 [], Other:
4. Products covered (HS where applicable, otherwise national tariff heading): Tires for passenger cars (HS 4011)
5. Title: Consumer Information Regulations; Uniform Tire Quality Grading Standards
6. Description of content: The Uniform Tire Quality Grading Standards (UTQGS) require that manufacturers and brand name owners of passenger car tires provide to consumers information about the relative performance of a tire in terms of treadwear, traction, and temperature resistance. This notice of proposed rule-making (NPRM) offers the following four proposals. First, the wheel alignment of the test vehicle would be set at the centre of the permissible range specified by the manufacturer. This would eliminate a potential source of variability. Second, the agency would change the rotation guidelines to require that each tire be driven on each wheel position on each vehicle throughout the convoy. Third, the agency would simplify the treadwear grading method so that tire tread depth measurements are taken only after the break-in period and at the conclusion of the test. Fourth, the agency would replace the current 10 unit interval grade assignment with a 20 unit interval grade assignment.
7. Objective and rationale: Reduce the variability and simplify the calculations related to treadwear grades.
8. Relevant documents: 54 FR 2167, 19 January 1989; 49 CFR Part 575. Will appear in the Federal Register when adopted.
9. Proposed dates of adoption and entry into force: To be determined
10. Final date for comments: 20 March 1989
11. Texts available from: National enquiry point [X] or address of other body: