

TIRE INFORMATION SERVICE BULLETIN

HIGH LOAD CAPACITY TIRES WITH “HL” PREFIX

Introduction and Purpose

The purpose of this bulletin is to inform about published standards for a new category of Extra Load tires called High Load Capacity (HLC) Passenger Tires and marked with the “HL” prefix. These tires have increased load capacity compared to typical Extra Load (XL) tires, at the same reference inflation pressure (290 kPa).

The driving force for these tires is from original equipment vehicle manufacturers. They are developing heavier vehicles on existing platforms, therefore being restricted from using larger tires. Electrification of cars and SUVs is a factor, as batteries add more load to the tires. However, these HLC tires are not limited to electric vehicles.

Identification

HLC tires are identified by a “HL” prefix before the tire size on the sidewall. Figure 1 shows an example.



FIGURE 1:
Size and Service
Description of an
Example HLC Tire

List of Load Categories for Same Example Size

Tire Category	Tire Size Designation	Load Index and Speed Symbol	Load Identification	Maximum Load Capacity At Rated Pressure*	
				kg/lb	kPa/psi
Standard Load (SL)	245/40R19	94Y	Standard Load	670 kg/1477 lb	250 kPa/36 psi
Extra Load (XL)	245/40R19	98Y	Extra Load	750 kg/1653 lb	290 kPa/42 psi
HLC – Extra Load	HL245/40R19	101Y	Extra Load	825 kg/1819 lb	290 kPa/42 psi

*Conversion in lb and psi provided by The Tire and Rim Association.

Replacement of HLC Tires

It is recommended that an HLC tire be replaced with an HLC tire of equal size and load carrying capacity. For additional information and replacement options, consult the vehicle manufacturer.

NOTE

Before replacing tires, always refer to and follow the vehicle manufacturer’s tire replacement recommendations and restrictions. The range of approved HLC rim widths may be different compared to SL or other XL tires. Refer to The Tire and Rim Association (TRA) or the European Tire and Rim Technical Organization (ETRTO) for more information.

This is a publication of the U.S. Tire Manufacturers Association.

Duplication and distribution of this work in the original form is permitted. All other rights reserved.
To receive USTMA publications call +1 202.682.4800 or go to USTires.org and click on Publications.