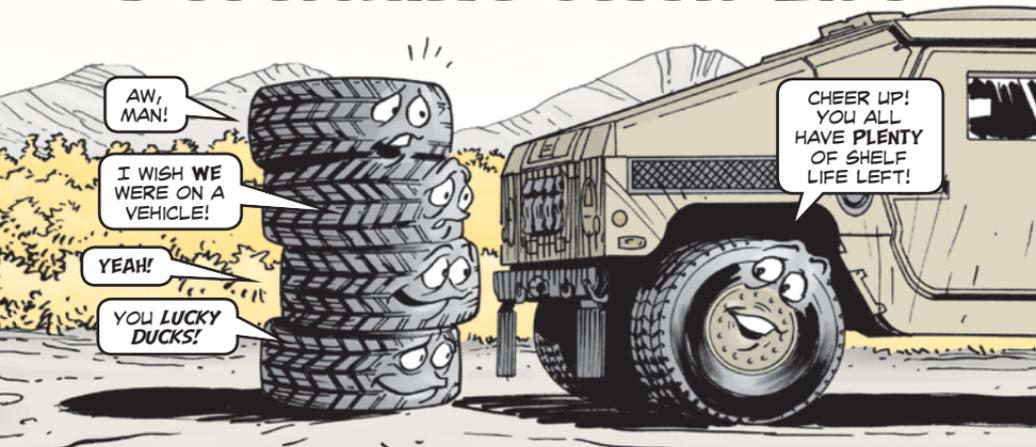


Tires...

Last Four Numbers Determine Shelf Life



AW, MAN!

I WISH WE WERE ON A VEHICLE!

YEAH!

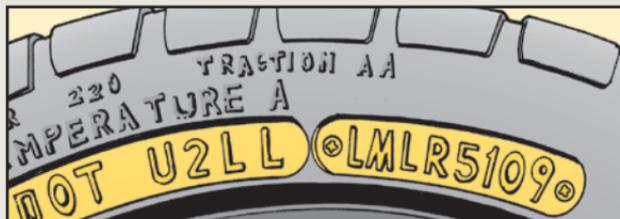
YOU LUCKY DUCKS!

CHEER UP! YOU ALL HAVE PLENTY OF SHELF LIFE LEFT!

When conducting personal business, you sometimes have to give the last four numbers of your social security number. But that's not the only last four numbers that can give you key information. The last four numbers in the DOT code on tires tell you when the tires were produced.

Shelf Life Guidance

For serviceable tires on the shelf, use the DOT code to figure out how many weeks are left on the tire. The code on the sidewall of the tire will say "DOT" then show a series of characters. The last four numbers are the week and year of manufacture. The first two are the week of the year and the second two are the last two numbers of the year.



DOT U2LL LMLR 5109
5109 -- manufactured during the 51st week of the year
5109 -- manufactured during 2009

Tires have a 60-month or a 5-year shelf life from the date of manufacture to be put into service. For example, a DOT code ending in 5109 means that it was manufactured in the 51st week of 2009. So the unit has until the 51st week of 2014 to get that tire off the shelf and on a vehicle.

Once a tire's in service, you can keep using it until it becomes unserviceable. You still need to inspect tires for cracking, bulges, damage, low inflation and uneven wear while doing your vehicle's PMCS. If your vehicle is in storage, make sure you crank it up and exercise the tires sometimes.

For more on tires, eyeball TM 9-2610-200-14 (Sep 05).