

Decision on tyre pressure monitoring systems a success for the environment and for traffic safety in Europe

Sweden's NIRA Dynamics welcomes the decision on new technical guidelines for tyre pressure monitoring systems (TPMS) in Europe. "This means that our indirect tyre pressure monitoring system, TPI, can continue to be used in Europe in the future. As such it marks a step forward for safety and the environment," says President & CEO Dr. Urban Forssell.

Working Party 29 of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, UNECE, recently took a decision regarding new guidelines for tyre pressure monitoring systems in Europe. The EU Commission wants to make it compulsory to fit such systems in new cars as of November 1, 2012. The EU is expected to formally ratify the above decision in early 2011.

The decision of Working Party 29 deals with new performance requirements for both direct and indirect tyre pressure warning systems.

"Our own software-based indirect tyre pressure system, TPI, is both safe and environmentally friendly and needs no further parts built into the vehicle" relates Dr. Forssell. The system analyses signals from the car's electronic stability control system and other electronic systems to detect if one or more tyres has insufficient pressure, alerting the driver if low pressure is detected.

Safety is vital

"Having the correct tyre pressure is important to safety. What is more, it helps reduce both fuel consumption and carbon dioxide emissions since the tyre's rolling resistance and friction against the road surface are reduced," explains Dr. Forssell.

However, there are powerful forces at work to influence the adoption of more expensive direct tyre pressure monitoring systems on the European market.

"It is surprising that direct tyre pressure monitoring systems are being supported by some parties with the argument that they are more environmentally suitable and efficient," says Dr. Forssell. "However, they all ignore the fact that the modern indirect systems are as safe as the direct ones, at the same time as they are also less of a burden on the environment.

"The direct tyre pressure warning systems have expensive battery-powered tyre sensors that must be replaced at least once during the car's lifetime. Multiply this by 250 million vehicles in Europe, of which a sizable proportion are required to have an extra set of winter tyres with sensors, and we are talking about at least 200,000 tonnes of toxic electronic scrap in the form of worn-out sensors and batteries. This would be scrap that burdens the environment entirely unnecessarily," he concludes.

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About NIRA Dynamics

NIRA Dynamics is a company that focuses on research into and development of monitoring and control systems for the automobile industry. We supply companies the world over with innovative and high-quality products that improve safety in tomorrow's vehicles. NIRA Dynamics was founded in 2001 and is headquartered in Linköping. For more information visit www.niradynamics.se.