



PRESS RELEASE

Westlake Tyres are Reach compliant

- Westlake's General Manager states that all tyres aimed at the European market "comply with all European legislation"
- Samples of tyre rubber were analysed according to the ISO 21461:2009 schedule
- Westlake Tyres offer a complete range of passenger, UHP and 4x4 tyres

London, 24 May, 2011.— Westlake Tyres, responding to the ETRMA'S recent reports on "Strong industry concern" surrounding the compliance of all tyres imported into the European Union, have taken the immediate decision to re-test its tyres at the ETRMA certified TARRC (Tun Abdul Razak Research Centre) independent testing centre in Brickendonbury, Hertfordshire. TARRC's ISO21461 method is UKAS accredited and carried out by experienced and knowledgeable analysts.

At said facility, an "Aromaticity Test" was undertaken on several Westlake "black rubber samples" – and "COMFORTABLY PASSED the legal criteria". Samples of Westlake tyre rubber were analysed according to the ISO 21461:2009 schedule and "a standard oil that had previously been examined with multiple analysis and showed a value of 0.18 HBay%" showed up on this occasion at 0.17% HBay%.

Thus, according to the EC Directive 552/2009 REACH for PAH rich extender oils in tyre production after January 1, 2010, Extender oil limits in vulcanised rubber compounds should not exceed 0.35 Bay proton, as measured and calculated by ISO 21461. Westlake Tyres, therefore, do not exceed said measure.





Mr. Jorge Crespo, Westlake's General Manager for Europe, stated that Westlake wanted to test its tyres in the same laboratories as the ETRMA because they wanted to ensure "that all of Westlake's tyres aimed at the European market, comply with all the European legislation" and this compliance fell well within the brand's "technical investment and European focus strategy".

Mr. Crespo further stated that although most tyre production plants have clean oil and a non clean oil facilities, "Westlake's clean oil facilities are aimed at European production and European customers, and all tyres shipped to European distributors after January 1, 2010, are free of any banned aromatic oils. A large share of tyres -premium and budget-, for non-European markets can make their way into Europe through the grey import markets. We are confident that all Westlake tyres destined for Europe comply with European legislation and strongly oppose market players who unlawfully import tyres and disrupt the market (regardless of the brand of tyres). We have always cooperated with authorities to avoid and fight those illegal activities and we'd like to re-assure our customers that the products they are buying from us or from our official distributors are of the upmost quality and compliant with all European legislation".

Mr. Crespo reiterated Westlake's "commitment to excellence" and ensured that all of Westlake's products aimed at the European market "fully comply with European legislation".





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Road, meet rubber.

