

Missouri Tire Fee Bill Sent To Governor

The Missouri House of Representatives passed a bill to extend the 50-cent fee on new tires until Jan. 1, 2015, in a 149-5 vote last month. The Missouri Senate passed the bill by a 30-2 vote in April. The bill was sent to Gov. Jay Nixon for signing.

Besides renewing the fee, the bill increases the percentage of the fee earmarked for scrap tire removal from illegal dumps-to 50 percent from 25. It also sets aside 45 percent of the funds for grants to people or groups that will use products made from scrap tires, up from the current 5 percent.

The 50-cent tire fee has existed in Missouri since 1990, except for an interregnum between Jan. 1, 2004, and Oct. 1, 2005. At the end of 2008, more than 15 million scrap tires had been cleaned up in Missouri using the funds from the tire fee, according to the Missouri Department of Natural Resources.

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Developing Consumer Demand

Veteran recycled rubber products manufacturer Art Dodge see steady growth ahead driven by consumer demand despite today's economic downturn

"The recession has impacted all markets and product categories," Art Dodge, President of Lancaster, PA-based Ecore International, Inc. told attendees at a tire recycling business forum during the ISRI convention in Las Vegas in April. But even in tough economic times, companies need to find ways to grow, he said.

For Ecore, new products and a new sustainability partnership with Nike, Inc. are leading the way.

The company has operated as Dodge Regupol, Inc., since 1989 and prior to that as Dodge

Cork Company. Under this lineage, Ecore International has been providing high-quality recycled rubber, cork and cork/rubber products for the industrial, commercial and consumer markets since its founding. Today, Ecore uses nearly 40,000 tons of scrap tire rubber annually to produce bonded rubber, friction materials, rubber fillers for use in industrial and automotive parts, roofing products, component systems, commercial and sports flooring, noise control insulation and turf infill and mulch. It's most popular product lines include ECO Surfaces commercial flooring, Everlast sports flooring and QT sound control insulation.

Earlier this year, Ecore's Everlast Sports Surfacing partnered with Beaverton, OR-based Nike, Inc. to incorporate Nike Grind rubber in its fitness flooring products. Everlast with Nike Grind combines raw materials made from Nike's recycled athletic shoes

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RMA Calls California Tire Aging Bill A Lawsuit Magnet

The California Assembly's passage May 28 of a bill that would require tire dealers in the state to include tire age information on sales invoices drew immediate reaction from the Washington, D.C.-based Rubber Manufacturers Association (RMA). The RMA criticized the measure as "inconsistent," "contradictory" and "fear-mongering" saying it would only serve to increase lawsuit opportunities for the bill's primary supporters - trial lawyers.

Under AB 496 which passed the Assembly by a one-vote margin, dealers who don't provide tire age information for every tire they sell would face a \$250 fine for every violation. It would also give tire buyers who don't receive tire age information the explicit right to bring a civil action against the dealer.

Supporters of the measure claim that tires reaching a certain age are a potential safety hazard and say the notification is necessary to prevent older tires from being placed into service. Supporters also contend that the bill will help educate tire dealers-- who they say "aren't given the information and training they need on the effects of tire aging."

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EcoSurfaces flooring products are manufactured with high quality recycled tire rubber and ColorMill® EPDM.