



FEBRUARY 2025 BULLETIN

ASSOCIATION CONTEST

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE JANUARY 2025 TRIVIA CONTEST WINNER, AUTO TECH COLLISION, NY, NY.

Please read through this bulletin for your chance to win!!! Call the office or email ssdgn@ssdgn.org with the correct answer to the trivia question to be entered in the monthly drawing for a chance to receive a free month's dues; a \$45 value.

ATTORNEY'S CORNER

Vincent P. Nesci, Esq., General Counsel for SSDGNY

This month's column is one that is close to heart – Tires!

This column today is focused on tires—what they are, how they work, their various uses, and proper disposal. As many of you know, I spent 18 years as a Formula driver on a national racing circuit, giving me extensive knowledge about tires, tire pressures, and various types like slicks, intermediates, and full wet tires. In this column, we'll touch on some key aspects of everyday tire use and what the government expects from you. Currently, the majority of tires sold in the United States are radial tires.

Tires: Passenger Car and Trailer

What is a Radial Tire?

A radial ply tire features cords arranged at 90-degree angles to the direction of travel, as if the cords radiate outward from an imaginary center of the tire. This construction reduces rolling friction, improves fuel economy, provides better grip, and enhances steering control. The tire is reinforced with a circumferential belt beneath the tread, stabilizing the tire and allowing the sidewalls to flex independently from the tread area. This flexibility enables the tire to absorb road irregularities without overstressing the cord layers.

Research has shown that radial ply passenger tires are less likely to suffer from impact breaks caused by cord rupture. The deflection of radial body cords generates less heat under load. Today, passenger car tires can have aspect ratios as low as 20, with rim sizes up to 32 inches.

What is a Bias Ply Tire?

Bias ply tires, commonly found on trailers and vehicles used for heavy hauling or rough roads, feature crisscrossing layers of cord. These tires offer higher rolling resistance and reduced traction at higher speeds compared to radial tires. Historically, bias ply tires were more common, but they have largely been replaced by radial ply tires for most passenger vehicles.

New tires often come with ratings for traction, treadwear, and temperature resistance, known collectively as the Uniform Tire Quality Grade (UTQG). These ratings are easy to check, and you'll also see speed ratings, like the "AZ" rating on a C-4R which I used as a daily driver after its short-lived use as in the Corvette Challenge Series. The car used unidirectional, wheel-specific tires. There are some vehicles that also are unidirectional – make sure you check – usually sports cars.

What Are the Laws of Tire Disposal and Associated Fees?

1. Don't Throw Tires in the Trash!

You can't simply throw your tires out with the regular garbage unless you're ready to face legal consequences! (The government doesn't exactly appreciate jokes on this matter!)

2. Waste Tire Fee in New York State

In New York, sellers of new tires must collect a Waste Tire Fee for each new tire sold. This fee must be clearly itemized on all estimates and repair orders.

3. Disposal Charges

Dealers cannot charge a separate disposal fee to cover their disposal costs. However, they may include disposal costs in the price of the new tire.

If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to the Association, and they'll get your inquiries to me.



REPRESENTATION THROUGH LOBBYING

Did you know, we represent you before the state and national legislatures and before governmental agencies, commissions, and regulatory bodies in promoting legislation and regulations that benefit the service station dealer and repair shop business. Similarly, since it's equally important to defeat measures that threaten harm to our members, this Association works diligently to prevent their enactment. Our lobbying efforts in Albany are coordinated through the office of our experienced lobbyist, Rober A. Ungar who monitors legislation on our behalf.

When it comes to protecting your legitimate rights and securing fair treatment, there's no question about it..”We Can Do Better Together”



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EmblemHealth®

OPEN ENROLLMENT / RENEWAL

It is renewal time for those of you enrolled on EmblemHealth. March 1, 2025, open enrollment begins. If you would like to switch within your plan now is the time to do so. You are only allowed to switch within your plan during the open enrollment period. The EmblemHealth plan details are outlined on the medical election form that you should've received via email. If you did not receive them, please call the Association right away at 914-698-5188.

If you'd like to switch to another insurance carrier you may do so at any time. We offer insurance plans through Oxford, Anthem and UBF/Aetna-Merita. Dental coverage through Guardian and Vision coverage through VSP.

Please contact the Association by phone at 914-698-5188 or by email at ssdgnny@ssdgnny.org for more information of if you would like to make a plan change.



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Installation of facility numbers included!

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FDA SEEKS PUBLIC COMMENTS ON PROPOSAL TO LIMIT NICOTINE LEVELS

Washington, D.C. – The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) formally issued a proposed rule on Jan. 15 that would limit the amount of nicotine in cigarettes and certain other combusted tobacco products to non or minimally addictive levels. If finalized, the rule would make the United States the first country to take such a significant action to prevent and reduce smoking-related disease and death, according to the agency.

A public comment period on the proposed rule will run from Jan. 16 through Sept 15. Along with general comments, the FDA is specifically soliciting input on certain topics, including the products to be covered by the proposed standard; the proposed limit to the nicotine level; the proposed tow-year effective date ad likelihood that companies will be able to comply within that timeframe; and the potential for illicit trade resulting from the proposed standard and any related impact to public health.

The FDA's Tobacco Products Scientific Advisory Committee will also provide input on the proposal.

"Multiple administrations have acknowledged the immense opportunity that a proposal of this kind offers to address the burden of tobacco-related disease," said FDA Commissioner Robert M. Califf, M.D. "Today's proposal envisions a future where it would be less likely for young people to use cigarettes and more individuals who currently smoke could quit or switch to less harmful products.

"This action, if finalized, could save many lives and dramatically reduce the burden of severe illness and disability, while also saving huge amounts of money," he continued. "I hope we can all agree that significantly reducing the leading cause of preventable death and disease in the U.S. is an admirable goal we should all work toward."

After the FDA submitted the proposed rule to the Office of Management and Budget on Dec. 10, 2024, NACS stated it is paying close attention to the proposed rule, as its implications



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could significantly impact the convenience store industry, as *Convenience Store News* previously reported.

The rule would cap the nicotine level at 0.7 milligrams per gram of tobacco in cigarettes and certain other combusted tobacco products and would not ban cigarettes or any other tobacco products.

It would apply to cigarettes, cigarette tobacco, roll-your-own tobacco, most cigars (including little cigars, cigarillos and most large cigars) and pipe tobacco. It does not include e-cigarettes, nicotine pouches, noncombustible cigarettes (such as heated tobacco products that meet the definition of a cigarette), waterpipe tobacco (hookah), smokeless tobacco products or premium cigars.

"Today, we're taking a critical step in the rulemaking process by providing the public with a proposal they can review and engage on," said Brian King, Ph.D., M.P.H, director of the FDA's Center for Tobacco Products. "This proposal allows for the start of an important conversation about how we meaningfully tackle one of the deadliest consumer products in history and profoundly change the landscape of tobacco product use in the United States."

As reported on csnews.com



TRUMP TO END EV TAX CREDITS, DECLARE NATIONAL ENERGY EMERGENCY

A White House official confirmed Trump plans to eliminate federal incentives for EVs and halt emissions goals set by the EPA.

President Donald Trump was sworn into office on Jan. 20 and is moving swiftly to reverse key environmental policies enacted under his predecessor. A White House official confirmed that Trump plans to sign an executive order eliminating federal incentives for electric vehicles (EVs) and halting emissions goals set by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

Although there is no official "EV mandate," Trump's order is expected to target the federal \$7,500 EV tax credit established under former President **Joe Biden**, as well as regulatory measures requiring automakers to shift toward zero-emission vehicles. Last year, Biden finalized emissions rules mandating that two-thirds of all new passenger vehicles sold by 2032 must be electric or hybrid models, though it remains uncertain whether Trump has the authority to fully repeal those regulations.

Trump also announced plans to declare a "national energy emergency," signaling a broader push to expand fossil fuel production and roll back environmental initiatives.

"The inflation crisis was caused by massive overspending and escalating energy prices, and that is why today I will also declare a national energy emergency," Trump said in his inaugural address. "We will drill, baby, drill."

As part of this shift, Trump pledged to increase oil drilling in Alaska, withdraw the U.S. from the Paris climate agreement, and put an end to efforts associated with the Green New Deal.

The move is likely to face legal challenges, particularly in relation to the EPA's authority to regulate emissions. If Trump's order succeeds in rolling back emissions targets, the agency may need to draft and implement new regulations -- a process that could take years.

While Trump is not immediately enacting tariffs on imported EV battery materials from China, Canada and Mexico, his administration has signaled an intent to reevaluate trade policies. A memorandum issued Jan. 20 directs officials to assess the country's trade deficits, potentially leading to new tariff proposals in the coming months.

Additionally, Trump's first executive actions include a declaration of a national emergency at the U.S.-Mexico border and halting several immigration initiatives. Meanwhile, *Tesla* CEO Elon Musk has been officially appointed to lead the newly formed Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE), though the agency's creation could face legal scrutiny.

As the new administration takes shape, the automotive industry and environmental advocates are bracing for significant regulatory changes that could reshape the future of transportation and energy policy in the U.S.

As reported on autobodynews.com



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TRAINING

SEXUAL HARRASSMENT TRAINING

Pursuant to Section 201-g of the Labor Law employer in NYS is required to establish a sexual harassment prevention policy and is required to provide employees with sexual harassment prevention training which needs to be done on an annual basis.

SSDGNY can provide you with all the necessary training materials at a low cost. The training is personalized with your business and employee information.

Kindly contact our office at 914-698-5188 for more information.



SSDGNY is a member of TST (Technicians Service training) and as a member of SSDGNY you are automatically entitled to receive certain benefits from TST such as discounts on live seminars, yearly big event and trade shoes, on-line videos and more.

To receive the mentioned discount, you must call the association prior to contacting TST.



Garage Gurus is an industry-leading training and support platform created to address the skill gaps and technician shortages facing the automotive service industry. Garage Gurus gives technicians the skills, training and knowledge they need to ensure quality repairs and build a stronger, more successful automotive service industry.

Click the QR Code to visit their website for more information:



REFERRALS

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TRIVIA QUESTION

What is different about this month's Bulletin than from past Bulletins?

Call the office at 914-698-5188 or email us at ssdgn@ssdgn.org with your answer for a chance to win a free month's dues.

We hope you enjoyed reading this month's bulletin. If you have any questions, feel free to call the association. We are here to help you and your industry.

Best Regards,

*Service Station Dealers & Automotive Services
of Greater NY, Inc.*