

Importers tipped on how to increase the shelf life of a tyre

By Prossy Nandudu

Did you know that exposing car tyres to direct sunlight could shorten their life span? This is one of the tips that the Uganda National Bureau of Standards (UNBS) is preaching to importers of car tyres in Uganda through their simplified version of car tyre standards.

The aim is to increase the shelf life of car tyres to prevent accidents related to poor conditions of tyres. The other mistakes that dealers make, include stacking them when transporting and piling them onto each other, according to Dr Ben Manyindo, the executive director of the UNBS.

He made the remarks while meeting importers, traders and dealers of car tyres on Friday at the Uganda Industrial Research Institution (UIRI) in Nakawa, a Kampala suburb to sensitise them on tyre standards and care guidelines.

"We are meeting them to sensitise them on standards and guidelines, which they will have to use to ensure the safety of the tyres. When we start enforcement, there should be no complaint," Manyindo said.

He said lives are lost in motor accidents partly due to poor



UNBS boss Manyindo

conditions of tyres.

According to Manyindo, buyers should look at the manufacture date, expiry date and size of the tyre, before buying them.

One of traders, Ali Semakula from Kisekka Market in downtown Kampala, complained that the UNBS should not promote new car tyres at the expense of the locally retreaded ones because many traders are dealing in them.

Manyindo, however, insisted that selling retreaded tyres in Uganda is illegal and attracts a sh10m fine or two years imprisonment or both if convicted. He, however said UNBS could engage with the dealers and makers of retreaded tyres.