

2011 spec tires

Posted by many944s - 17 Mar 2011 13:55

Ok, I don't mean to be a buzz-kill but with less than 30 days til the race season begins here in the mid-west and great lakes regions, there needs to be some sort of decision made on tires for the season. With the issue in Japan I don't think there is any way to procure the needed amount of tires for all of our drivers for even the first couple weekends of racing! With everything I have read it seems that it will be quite a while before production continues at TOYO, not to mention how long it will take to get those tires here to the states!

Is there any way to choose an "alternate" tire? Whether it is for the entire season, or just a portion? As a build & support shop this is becoming a serious issue. From a 944-spec shop that rebuilds transmissions we really don't want to see a "full slick" tire be adopted as there just aren't that many available ring and pinion sets available! Running full slicks WILL kill these transmissions.

the 944-spec class isn't the only class that's going to deal with the TOYO shortage, so this may become a much larger issue! Are there any other tire suppliers that can provide a similar tire? At this point, contingency may not even be an issue! Sure, you may get a \$500 TOYO-buck certificate, but how much good does that do if you can't buy the tires before the cert expires??

Not trying to stir the pot, but this is an issue that is not going to resolve itself anytime soon.

-Nick Miller

Bennington Motorsports

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Re: 2011 spec tires

Posted by Chris - 31 Mar 2011 10:40

So just an update on how I got my tires...

They were from last year's batch. Last set that the shop had in stock, Last set in the state of CO.

They told me that they were 4 of less than 100 available nationwide and a new shipment will not be in for the foreseeable future. So, they gave me a small "discount" because they were a year old but get this...

price tag...

180 each unmounted and unshaved + tax!!!!... I guess that's the price you pay when you have to buy specific tires, they are low on supply, high in demand but you need to buy them now?

I hate to keep sounding negative on these forums cause I really am a "glass is half full" personality, but this doesn't feel right.

Chris

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Re: 2011 spec tires

Posted by rd7839 - 31 Mar 2011 12:16

I got a set a few weeks ago and I also noticed that the price had gone up as well. I'm all for rules stability but maybe a tire change discussion is not out of order.

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Re: 2011 spec tires

Posted by cbuzzetti - 31 Mar 2011 13:16

Well if Nitto is making tires in Japan then I don't see what difference this makes.

It is my understanding that Japan is importing/exporting only required goods right now.

We would need a non Japan manufactured tire to make a difference.

Has anyone checked USA stock on available tires in our size?

I will contact Buttonwillow to see what is available in a 225-50-15.

If others can do the same with their local/normal tire supplier we could get a small picture of what is available.

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Re: 2011 spec tires

Posted by cbuzzetti - 31 Mar 2011 13:54

Buttonwillow currently does not have any tires in the 225/50-15 size for any manufacture.

They did mention that a woman from Toyo was there last weekend with a different race group and that one cargo ship is enroute with tires but the quantity and sizes were unknown at this time.

Maybe we will get lucky and it is full of our size.

Please check around and post here what you find out.

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Re: 2011 spec tires

Posted by cbuzzetti - 31 Mar 2011 14:50

Just got a call back from Les at Buttonwillow. He called Toyo after I called earlier today.

There are plenty of **225-45-15 RA-1** tires in stock.

Toyo will not tell him the QTY but this may be the best alternative since it will be very close in speed and will still qualify for Toyo Bucks.

May need to get the powers that be to discuss this option.