

Introduction

AutoSock snow socks provide vehicles with extra grip on icy and snowy roads. The Norwegian company AutoSock AS started their research and development work with these products in 1996, creating a new product category and working with the German TÜV and regulatory bodies to establish appropriate standards for testing and evaluation. They launched their first products on the market in 2001, and have since that time continued their development, often working with major car companies as well as government organisations, both civilian and military. Crucially, AutoSock owns the relevant patents, has successfully sued a number of manufacturers for patent infringement, and is currently taking action against several copiers.

AutoSock are pulled over the driving wheels (and sometimes steering wheels as well) when the road conditions look particularly tricky, or after a vehicle has got stuck. They work extraordinarily well in all snow conditions by using high tech textiles to maximise the available dry friction. AutoSock's unique fabric was developed in conjunction with KoSa in Germany and DuPont Textiles, both subsequently part of Koch Industries' INVISTA business, the world's largest manufacturer of polyester products.

The challenge was to develop a very hard wearing polyester textile that would absorb moisture so as to maximise the dry friction when used on a very wide range of snow conditions.

Safety and training issues

AutoSock may be used on tarmac (maximum speed 50km/h for AutoSock, 30km/h for AutoSock for trucks and buses) for short periods until it is safe to stop and remove them. It should be obvious that they will wear out relatively quickly when used on tarmac. No special training is required - fitting AutoSock is both easy and obvious. The distributor will provide detailed guidance about when the wear limit has been reached.

Tests and Approvals

AutoSock exports its textile from Europe to India; the Indian manufacturer is approved to

ISO 9001:2008 (Quality Management System)

ISO 14001:2004 (Environmental Management System)

OHSAS : 18001:2007 (Occupational Health and Safety Management System)

AutoSock and AutoSock for Trucks (also now approved for buses and coaches) are also approved by TÜV SÜD, certificates Z2 10 01 44408 011 and Z2 10 01 44408 012 respectively. AutoSock is also approved by the Austrian ÖNORM to V 5121.

Copy certificates for all these tests and approvals are available.

Additional history

Please see letter from AutoSock AS dated 05.10.2012.

Further information

For further information, please refer to Martin Gray, Director at John Jordan Limited, the UK and Irish distributor for AutoSock products: martin.gray@roofbox.co.uk. (AutoSock sales across the whole of Ireland are handled by Finer Filters Limited, see www.autosock.ie.)

