



Technical Bulletin

Issue 10019 - Comline focuses on copper-free friction

Comline is taking the significant step of removing copper from our all-makes brake pad range, demonstrating an environmentally-responsible ethos and proactive approach to product development.

Environmental concerns in both California and Washington State have led to a clampdown on copper and other toxic materials contained inside brake pads within these regions.

Groups and regulators demonstrated that copper and other metals were being dumped onto roadways as brake pads wore down, consequently polluting streams, rivers and the wider marine ecosystem. As such, new regulations have been implemented in both states.

In both regions, by 1st January 2021, all manufacturers/importers must self-certify that their brake pads contain less than 5% by weight of copper. And, by 1st January 2025, that figure must be lower than 0.5% – effectively banning the use of copper in brake pads altogether.

Whilst these regulations are only applicable in these two US states, Comline is taking the proactive and environmentally-responsible step of removing copper from its brake pads and is already well-ahead of the curve with a copper-free, R90-compliant range.

Comline employs stringent manufacturing processes in its own production facilities assuring complete control over specification and materials. That has enabled the brand to swiftly develop its copper-free solution.

Comline Director of Braking Product Development, Dr. Keith Ellis, said: “Comline is aiming to be at the leading edge on copper-free solutions for the independent aftermarket in Europe. We already have our range in place for passenger cars and LCV with a similar, copper-free offering for commercial vehicles – trucks and trailers – nearing completion.

“There may not be any direct, regulatory need for Comline to go copper-free here in Europe, but we cannot rule out the possibility that such laws might – and I emphasise might – be introduced here in the future. In addition, now that we are aware of the potential negative impact on the environment, we are obviously keen to eradicate copper from all Comline pads at the earliest opportunity.”

Being ahead of the curve is nothing new for Comline. A hard-working development team operates a continuous, fast-paced development programme that ensures Comline is consistently early to market with pad and disc references.

This development keeps the Comline range in-tune with market needs in over 40 countries worldwide and has made a significant contribution towards Comline becoming one of the aftermarket’s fastest-growing brands.

