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Focusing solely on fuel efficiency ignores the primary purpose of a tire

The primary purpose of vehicle tires is to provide control over the vehicle. Reduced tread depth and harder compounds may be more efficient only in the realm of fuel efficiency. Reduced traction will lead to more accidents with the attendant effect on land use. The primary driver of fuel efficiency is vehicle weight and propulsion type, not tire efficiency. Any change to tire requirements must also take in basic performance criteria such as speed rating, temperature resistance, treadwear rating and grip.