

The new MICHELIN Pilot Sport Cup 2 to premier on the Mercedes-Benz SLS AMG Coupé Black Series

All of the new Mercedes-Benz SLS AMG Coupé Black Series cars will be fitted with the new MICHELIN Pilot Sport Cup 2 tires.

Delivering superior performance is engrained in the genetic code of the AMG brand. It's also the mission assigned to the new MICHELIN Pilot Sport Cup 2 tires, which will equip all new Mercedes-Benz SLS AMG Coupé Black Series cars. This achievement by the automobile manufacturer and the tiremaker is the result of close cooperation that enabled them to complete the project. More importantly, it demonstrated their shared commitment to superior performance.

Mercedes-AMG set demanding criteria for the tires that will equip its supersport model, and the new MICHELIN Pilot Sport Cup 2 complies fully with the carmaker's specifications. The new range delivers the total performance required by the auto manufacturer and is the only tire to display Mercedes-AMG's own certification markings for the new SLS AMG Coupé Black Series. Operating in perfect harmony with the car, the tires are capable of providing:

- Continuous precision steering, whether the driver is taking to the track with cold tires or leaving it with heated tires.
- Agility and enhanced responsiveness that enable drivers to get the most out of the model's sporty engine and chassis.
- Maximum grip, for faster lap times.
- Exceptional heat resistance to ensure consistent performance lap after lap.
- Adherence, balance and stability on wet surfaces for carefree driving, even when weather conditions worsen.

Delivering performance in these areas is the result of a co-development project involving teams from the Michelin Technology Center and engineers from the Stuttgart-based car manufacturer. The project can be summed up with the following figures:

- **Over 100 dynamic evaluations** and test sessions conducted on tracks in Northern and Southern Europe – in Italy, at the Michelin Technology Center in Ladoux and on the Nürburgring circuit.
- **1,800** prototype and special series tires.
- **800** pre-series tires.
- **Up to 315 km/h** which is the speed obtained with the tires, in safe driving conditions.

The new MICHELIN Pilot Sport Cup 2 tire with its five high-tech features

The tread compound

Produced with the same tools used to manufacture racing tires, the tread compound for the MICHELIN Pilot Sport Cup 2 integrates Bi-Compound technology, which involves the use of different rubber compounds on the inside and outside of the tread. The outer rubber is made with a high molecular weight elastomer chain whose hardness has been specially designed to deliver maximum adherence and outstanding dry grip on curves, especially on tight corners, while the inner side of the tire uses rubber made with a more rigid elastomer to ensure precision steering.

An aramid fiber belt

The main feature of the belt made with aramid, a high-density fiber, is its heightened tensile strength. This composite is both light and highly resistant; in fact, it is five times more resistant than steel at equivalent weight. Positioned on the crown under the tread, the strip rubber is applied with variable tension between the shoulders and the center of the tire. It is tightened so firmly that it literally locks the tire structure into a practically inelastic belt. As a result, the tire's footprint remains constant and centrifugal force is effectively controlled, even at very high speeds.

The Track Variable Contact Patch 3.0®

This innovation is adapted from Variable Contact Patch 2.0 technology integrated in the MICHELIN Pilot Super Sport tire. It optimizes pressure in the tire's contact patch so that more rubber is always in contact with the track, thereby ensuring superior grip in curves and tight corners.

A new bead region

The bead region is 10% wider than that of a traditional sports tire. It is strengthened with a high modulus rubber compound that increases the tire's lateral stiffness and delivers sporty responsiveness as well as precision steering.

Velvet sidewalls for a racing car with butterfly doors

A special tooling process in the molds combined with the Group's unique expertise has led to the development of MICHELIN Velvet Technology®. This solution has made it possible to create contrast on certain sections of the outer sidewall using micro-geometry techniques that absorb light. The geometry of the texture thus generated allows technicians to vary the contrast and create shades of black that have the look of velvet.

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