



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 14, 2004

## FOR SAFE SUMMER TRIPS, KEEP THAT CAR 'GOOD TO GO'

### V Corps Safety Office release

**HEIDELBERG, Germany** – Most people would agree that driving in the summer is more favorable than being on the road in winter. With no snow and less rain or wind to contend with, people tend to take long pleasure cruises on the weekends or on leave. But frequent driving should send drivers a signal that they need to make more frequent maintenance checks on your vehicle to ensure safe and trouble-free trips.

The V Corps Safety Office offers some points to consider about keeping vehicles in "good to go" condition:

#### **Radiator and belts**

One of the main hazards of summer driving is overheating. It's easy to recognize when a breakdown may be brewing. Check radiator hoses regularly for bulges, small cuts, and cracks, especially after the rubber-hardening winter. In hot weather, pressure from the radiator can quickly turn a crack into a hole. Also be sure that you have got the right mixture of coolant and water in the radiator.

Belts can also take a beating over the winter. Loose belts can slip. Belts that are too tight can wear down quickly and snap.

#### **Windshield**

Make sure the vehicle's windshield wiper solvent reservoir is full. Dust and insects can block your vision, on even the sunniest summer days. Also check that wiper blades don't streak. Blades can deteriorate over the winter, and going from extreme heat to heavy summer rains also wears them down quickly.

#### **Tires**

Extreme heat takes a toll on tires, too. Under-inflated tires flex more in hot weather and build up pressure, increasing the chance of a blowout. For an accurate tire pressure reading, check your tires after they have been cool for several hours. Also take the time to check the tire walls and the tread surface as often as possible. Have a mechanic check for objects that may be stuck inside the tread and for proper wear and rotation.

**Other things to check before and after summer trips:**

- Brake lights and turn signals
- Steering mechanism
- Oil, brake, transmission and battery fluid levels
- Rear- and side-view mirrors
- Safety belts and child safety seats
- Horn
- Spare tire

