

Wheels: And e-mail from Jim says, “I was checking tire pressure on my 2002 Suburban. The label on the driver’s side door recommends 35 psi for P265R70-16, and yet, the tire’s sidewall states that 44 psi is the maximum. What is correct pressure? I don’t want to travel this summer on under-inflated tires. Normally, I set the tire pressure on my passenger cars at 35 psi (1990 Caprice, 1986 Monte, and 1983 Buick Electra), which matches the maximum recommended psi on the tire. What do you think?”

Halderman: Vehicle manufacturers specify that you should follow the door placard rather than using the maximum pressure on the tire itself. The maximum tire pressure on the tire indicates that it will carry it full load at this pressure, but is not the recommended tire pressure. Many factors are considered when the vehicle manufacturer determines tire pressure. Many vehicle specifications do call for slightly higher pressures if you are driving at high speed most of the time carrying a heavy load. Most of the time, this extra pressure is limited to 4 psi. Check the owner’s manual for additional information regarding your vehicles.

