

Wheels: Another reader writes, “You give very useful advice on tires, however, I would appreciate your expanding on the speed ratings, by giving a listing of all the alpha letter speed rating designations. It appears from your column that as a rating goes down the alphabet, it denotes a lower speed rating. You rate H at a higher speed than S or T. My request results from the speed rating on my tires on my Mitsubishi 3000GT SL, which has Michelin XTG Z tires, with a speed rating of ZR. Also, in the current issue of AutoWeek, the review of the Cadillac CTS has tires with a V-speed rating.”

Halderman: For your information, here are the ratings (they are established in the metric system and then converted):

L = 75 MPH

M = 81 MPH

N = 87 MPH

P = 93 MPH

Q = 99 MPH

R = 106 MPH

S = 112 MPH

T = 118 MPH

U = 124 MPH

H = 130 MPH

V = 149 MPH

W = 168 MPH

Y = 186 MPH

Z = open ended (can vary with tire size and tire manufacturer)

I hope this helps answer your question.

