Tread Depth

Apparatus tires must have:

4/32” of tread depth on steering axles
2/32” of tread depth on non-steering axles

Twenty-six cents is all you need to check the tread depth during your pre-trip inspection.

Steering Axles—4/32”

When a Quarter is inserted into the grooves of the tread the top of George Washington’s head should be below the tread surface. The tread depicted in the photo has just enough tread depth.

Non-Steering Axles—2/32”

When a Penny is inserted into the grooves of the tread the top of Abraham Lincoln’s head should be below the tread surface. The tread depicted in the photo has just enough tread depth.

Your ability to brake, accelerate, and steer hinges upon the friction between the road surface and your tires. Without adequate tread depth your tires do not maintain that friction when traveling over imperfect road surface, debris, snow, or water.