

SMART DRIVER[®]

April 2017

Check the Tire Pressure

One of the most neglected aspects of a pre-trip inspection is the air pressure in the tires of commercial vehicles. It is not enough to scan tires for noticeably low-pressures or “thumping” the tires to gauge their pressure. Cutting corners in this area of the pre-trip inspection can be costly in terms of dollars, time, and possibly lives.

From a financial standpoint, under-inflated tires can decrease fuel mileage and wear down equipment faster. Low-pressure tires can also cost drivers and motor carriers precious time due to roadside inspections and maintenance downtime. Furthermore, an under-inflated or slow-leaking tire can break down and contribute to a crash; for example, when a steer tire blows and causes the driver to lose control of the vehicle.

When conducting the pre-trip inspection, be mindful of factors that can cause a drop in tire pressure. These factors can include punctures and leaky valve stems and cores. The mounting of the tire can also become damaged due to corrosion or hitting an object, such as a pothole. Likewise, variances in outside temperatures and human error can be factors as well.

Each tire manufacturer has suggested guidelines regarding load and pressure limits for their tires. Be sure to adhere to these specifications and report issues to maintenance immediately. Remember, avoid driving on under-inflated tires because the risk of a blowout and crash increases. It is better to err on the side of caution and possibly deliver a load late than attempt to drive on tires that could create additional hazards and potentially result in serious personal and financial consequences.

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Knowledge Verification

Driver's Name: _____ Emp/Unit #: _____

Please answer, and forward a completed copy to your Safety Department/Safety Representative.

- | | | |
|---|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. Tire pressures can be properly checked by thumping the tires. | <input type="checkbox"/> True | <input type="checkbox"/> False |
| 2. An under-inflated tire can lead to a crash or blowout. | <input type="checkbox"/> True | <input type="checkbox"/> False |
| 3. After striking an object with the tires, drivers should inspect the tires before proceeding. | <input type="checkbox"/> True | <input type="checkbox"/> False |

Answers:
1. False
2. True
3. True



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