THE INFLATION SYSTEM

COMMERCIAL FLEET TIRE DIGEST

The authoritative guide to reducing commercial tire expenditures from Pressure Systems International, the manufacturer of the Meritor Tire Inflation System by PSI™

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Happy Holidays from PSI and Commercial Fleet Tire Digest

Tracking your Tires: What's Important

After fuel, tires are the number one maintenance cost for commercial fleets. The average cost of a new commercial tire is about $500 depending on tread depth, compound, and wheel position. A typical eighteen wheeler running new rubber on both the tractor and trailer has an investment in tires that can exceed $9,000.

This is a serious cost outlay, so it is important for fleets to keep a close eye on how the tires are performing. The key metrics to monitor include:

- Miles/32"
- Removal miles
- Casing retreadability
- Tire pressure

Fleets that attempt to track every tire in their fleet from birth to death over multiple retreads finds this to be an impossible task. It takes way too much time and effort to record mileages, tread depth, tire pressures, and tire identification numbers of every tire running in your fleet. Plus there is extra effort required to record every event that happens to a tire such as puncture damage, rotation, and running out steer tires on the trailer position. In addition, there is entry error in trying to physically record the information into a database.

TMC, the Technology & Maintenance Council, of the American Trucking Association recommends tracking a statistically valid sample size. This is much more practical, and you can extrapolate the tire data for your entire fleet from the results of your sample group. TMC recommends thirty as a sample size to be statistically relevant. However, for many fleets this number can come close to or exceed the total vehicles in the fleet so should be revised to a number that would be manageable and still large enough to get good information. Tracking tires for the sample group for each of your specific service vocations will tell you everything you need to know about how your tires are performing. There is software available in the market to enter and track tire data. Many fleets simply create an XLS (Excel) database where the data is entered.

Once the tire data has been entered into some sort of database, you can start to analyze it. You can look at many different scenarios; for instance how one tire model is performing on the drive position versus how another is performing on vehicles running in line haul service. This will involve determining treadwear measured in miles/32" for each tire and also actual tire removal miles. Once the results are viewed, you may want to drill down further to determine if a certain tire is performing better or worse on different vehicle models. A similar analysis can be performed on any retreads running in your fleet. Casing retreadability is an important consideration for most fleets. If two retreads per casing is your target and your analysis shows that a particular tire model only averages 1.2 retreads per casing, then it is probably time to make a change.

Some tire designs may be more prone to irregular wear and tire punctures when compared to other designs. Once the tire data is entered into a database, it is amazing how much information can be learned that can help your fleet make the best possible business decisions regarding your tires and your tire program.

It is always a good idea to work with your local tire professional to help you enter, track the appropriate tire information and analyze the results. Your local tire representative can also provide insight into what other fleets in similar service vocations are doing with their tire programs to maximize tire performance and reduce costs.

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Q&A PSI ANSWERS YOUR QUESTIONS

Q. I have read about the new Greenhouse Gas Phase 2 regulations? When does it go into effect?

A. The new Proposed GHG-2 rulemaking is scheduled to be announced sometime in the middle of 2016. The comment period ended October 1, 2015. It will take effect for both tractors and trailers effective with model year 2018.