



CSA



By Jim Samocki, General Manager, Doran Manufacturing

TIRE PRESSURE MONITORING SYSTEMS CAN HELP

Reduce exposure to CSA penalties and lower tire repair and maintenance costs

It has not been a well kept secret that a number of trucks and trailers are rolling down the roads on underinflated tires. Many fleets understand that they can maximize tire life and improve the safety of their vehicles by maintaining proper pressures in their tires, but have struggled on how to implement an effective solution. Despite the best intentions to manage tire pressures through preventive maintenance programs and/or tire programs, it continues to be a significant challenge for fleets to keep the air pressure in their tires at or near the manufacturers' recommended levels.

With the implementation of the CSA Safety Measurement System earlier this year, the importance to maintain appropriate tire pressures was reconfirmed. Under section 393.75, fleets will find that flat tires or tires with audible air leaks will have a Violation Severity Weight of 8 (out of 10) and tires that are found to be underinflated will be assessed with a Violation Severity Weight of 3 (out of 10). These violations will be included on the record for both fleets and drivers, so the true effectiveness of a fleet's tire program, inspection process and the performance of drivers will be exposed.

Unfortunately, tires lose air pressure over time and properly gauging the tires on a tractor trailer can be a time consuming, dirty and error-filled task, especially for inside dual tires. As a quick test, manually check the tires on your personal vehicle to see how often you get the same PSI on your gauge and try to avoid any back pain or sore knees. Ultimately, the ugly combination of time, effort and poor accuracy associated with gauging tires has led to drivers to just "thumping 'em" in an attempt to get a feel if tires have enough air in them. Obviously, this is a very poor substitute for gauging tires, but it is an all too common practice.

As an alternative, tire pressure monitoring systems can be an extremely cost effective tool that can provide accurate, digital tire pressures in real-time at the press of a button. They can also be programmed to trigger audible and visual alerts when the pressure in a tire drops below a level that is supposed to be maintained. A growing number of fleets have discovered that the investment in tire pressure monitoring systems can be justified through the savings associated with redirecting costs currently assigned to tire maintenance programs, extending tire life, protecting casings and minimizing the number of costly road calls for catastrophic tire failures.

In addition, recent technological advancements and integration relationships with on-board computing/mobile communication providers have created the option to transmit tire pressure data off the truck to minimize the dependence on the driver to acknowledge a tire pressure alarm and fix the problem. The data can also be captured to create useful reporting



(Top) A Tire monitor.
(Bottom) Tire sensors.

Photo courtesy of Doran

tools to proactively identify problems, improve drive training and improve tire management programs.

If you are wondering your fleet can cost effectively offset rising tire prices and proactively address the new CSA standards associated with tire pressures, the answer exists today. Tire pressure monitoring systems have been proven to be a reliable and durable solution with low on-going maintenance costs which can help make one of the worst kept secrets a thing of the past.

About Doran Manufacturing, LLC: Cincinnati-based Doran Manufacturing has been supplying high quality transportation safety products more than 35 years. In addition to tire pressure monitoring systems, the company supplies LED and incandescent Exterior Light Monitors, Sleeping Child Checks®, Emergency Exit Monitors and a full range of LED lighting products to the school bus market. Also, the company continues to manufacture customized electric terminals and terminal boards in the original factory that was established in 1954. For more information on the Doran 360™ tire pressure monitoring systems, visit www.doranmfg.com or contact them via e-mail at samocki_jim@doranmfg.com, write to Doran Manufacturing, 2851 Massachusetts Avenue, Cincinnati, Ohio 45225 or call toll-free 866-816-7233.

Reprinted with permission from Fleet Maintenance, March 2011. © Cygnus Business Media, Inc. All Rights Reserved.



Doran Manufacturing
2851 Massachusetts Avenue
Cincinnati, OH 45225
1-866-816-7233
www.doranmfg.com