

## FACT SHEET 20

# Fork lift truck tyre safety

**The tyres are the only parts of a fork lift truck that are always in contact with the ground. They provide grip for movement, friction for braking and an element of suspension for safety and comfort.**

The correct tyres in good condition are an essential aid to safe and efficient operations. The wrong tyres for the application, or tyres in poor condition or excessively worn, are a potentially dangerous and expensive hazard.

## Tyre and wheel maintenance

It is important to check and maintain tyres and wheels:

- Inspect all tyres for damage daily
- Change tyres as recommended by the manufacturer
- Always replace tyres with the equivalent type (the same size, type, ply and performance specification)
- Check pressures on pneumatic tyres weekly or more often if there is evidence of deflation. They should be maintained at the manufacturer's recommended pressure. Failure to do this can result in instability and reduced tyre life.
- If safety critical defects are identified, such as displaced locking rings and flanges, damaged flanges or rims, the wheel/tyre must be withdrawn from use.
- Do not attempt to repair or modify a wheel or its components because this can affect the strength and integrity of the assembly.

## Removal of wheels and tyre fitting

Removing wheels can involve risks, particularly when they are fitted with pneumatic tyres, which can suddenly release pressure and cause injury.

No one should ever attempt to repair or remove a wheel with a pneumatic tyre using heat with the tyre in place.

Wheels and tyres should only be removed by trained and competent people with the appropriate equipment for the wheel and tyre combination.

Guidance on the servicing of tyres is in *Safety during tyre inflation in motor vehicle repair*.

Further guidance is in *Health and safety in motor vehicle repair and associated industries*, *Hot work on vehicle wheels* and BITA guidance GN67 *Multi-piece pneumatic tyred wheels – Inspection, maintenance and repairs*.

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The information in this Fact Sheet has been assembled and interpreted to give truck owners and users basic guidance on frequently asked questions. Further important information will be given in the quoted reference documents. Responsibility for meeting the safety obligations discussed rests with the employer, and the FLTA will not accept liability for any problem arising as a result of the content of this document. Technical Bulletins, containing more detailed information and updated as appropriate, are made available free to members of the FLTA SAFE USER GROUP.

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