

Servicing Steel Sidewall Tires

Guidelines

Follow these best practices when servicing steel sidewall tires:

- If a steel sidewall tire is 15 PSI or more below recommended inflation pressure, you must **perform an off-the-wheel inspection**.
- Always verify that you have the proper tire/wheel size combination.
- When installing steel sidewall tires, the steer (front) tires must have at least 4/32" of tread and cannot be retreaded or regrooved.
- If you encounter any issues at any point during the inflation process with the tire, **STOP**, return the assembly back to the inflation cage, and contact your supervisor.

Inflating new steel sidewall tires

Follow the same process learned in Inflating Tires training.

Once you have reached operating pressure in the assembly, inspect sidewalls for distortions, ripples, bubbles, or popping noises indicative of steel cords breaking.

Inflating used steel sidewall tires

Follow the same inflation process with an added safety check at 20 PSI.

- Mount and seal, then place in inflation cage.
- Use autoflate to inflate to 20 PSI.
- Disconnect hose and roll tire out of inflation cage to inspect sidewalls for: distortions, ripples, bubbles, or popping noises indicative of steel cords breaking.
- Place back in inflation cage and use autoflate to inflate to 80 PSI.
- Switch to MAST air gauge to achieve operating pressure.
- Inspect sidewalls a second time checking for distortions, ripples, bubbles, or popping noises.

Heavy duty equipment needed

This equipment is needed to service steel sidewall tires:

Equipment	Explanation
Metal Duckhead	Steel Sidewall Tires are less flexible than a standard passenger tire. Using the metal duckhead will make mounting and dismounting Steel Sidewall Tires easier and will also reduce the chance of the duckhead slipping out of place and damaging the standard duckhead.
Metal clamps for turntable	Half inch wheels have a different shaped rim flange and require a different set of clamps to secure to tire changer.
Bolt-in metal truck valves	Steel Sidewall Tires typically require a higher air pressure than a standard passenger tire.