

EASY REFERENCE GUIDE HEAVY COMMERCIAL TYRES (HGV & PCV)

Vehicles over 3,500kg GVW or 9+ passenger seats

DRIVERS & OPERATORS are legally responsible
for vehicle roadworthiness.

Remember to:



AIR PRESSURE

Check inflation cold
against manufacturer/
fleet load tables.
Don't forget inner
twin tyres!

CONDITION

Daily visual checks for
cuts, bulges, exposed
cords, trapped debris,
and wheel security.

TREAD

Legal minimum is 1.0mm
across the central 75%
of the tread continuously
around the tyre.

Check tyres during your **MANDATORY DAILY PRE-USE WALKAROUND CHECK**



DAILY WALKAROUND CHECKS

Drivers are legally required
to perform and document
pre-use tyre inspections. Any
identified defect (deep cuts,
bulges, trapped debris) must
be reported immediately
before the vehicle moves.



PROTECTING YOUR O-LICENCE

Tyre defects are a leading
cause of roadside
PG9 Prohibitions and **MOT
failures**. Defective tyres
directly impact your Operator
Compliance Risk Score
(OCRS) and can lead to Traffic
Commissioner sanctions.



PENALTIES & LIABILITIES

Up to **£2,500 fine** and
3 penalty points
PER TYRE for the driver,
plus operator prosecution
if defective tyres lead to
an incident.

HOW TO CHECK YOUR HGV & PCV TYRES

WHAT IT IS	 AIR PRESSURE	 CONDITION & PHYSICAL DEFECTS	 TREAD DEPTH & LEGAL LIMITS	 TYRE AGE & WHEEL SECURITY
	Inflation pressure tailored to axle load, measured in bar or psi.	Visual and tactile inspection of sidewalls, tread surface, twin wheel gaps, and regrooving marks.	The UK legal minimum tread depth is 1.0mm across the central 3/4 (75%) of the tread width, continuously around the outer circumference.	The 10-Year Legal Age Ban on front steer axles (HGVs, buses, coaches) and all axles of single-wheeled minibuses, plus wheel nut security checks.
WHY IT IS IMPORTANT	Prevents catastrophic blowouts, excessive shoulder wear, high fuel consumption, and overheating under heavy payloads.	Trapped stones between twin wheels can cause high-speed blowouts. Exposed ply/cords or sidewall bulges will trigger an immediate DVSA Prohibition (PG9).	Illegal tyres carry fines up to £2,500 and 3 penalty points PER TYRE, risk operator license sanctions, and drastically increase wet stopping distances.	Using tyres over 10 years old on steer axles is illegal and leads to immediate MOT/DVSA failure. Loose wheel nuts lead to wheel detachment.
HOW TO CHECK	Use an accurate commercial gauge when cold. Always use calibrated extensions to check inner twin tyres. Never bleed air from warm tyres.	Run daily checks for bulges, deep cuts, or tread separation. Clear trapped debris between twin tyres. Verify regrooved tyres are correctly marked and cords are not exposed.	Measure using a calibrated tread depth gauge in multiple places around the circumference and across the central 75% of the tread width.	Age: Read the 4-digit DOT code on the sidewall (e.g., 2116 = week 21, year 2016). Ensure steer axle tyres are under 10 years old. Security: Inspect wheel nut indicators (e.g., Checkpoints) for alignment or heat distortion. Ensure retorque procedures are followed after wheel fitting.