



Tire Inflation Safety

OSHA has specific safety requirements for employees who service multi and single piece rims or tires used on vehicles, which include commercial trucks, tractors, trailers, buses, and off-road machines *(although this rule does not apply to the servicing of rim wheels for automobiles, pickup trucks, and vans utilizing automobile tires or truck tires designated "LT" it should be used as a guideline when servicing those applicable tires/rims)*. During the inflation process, failure of the tire components can cause an explosive release of pressure, which can seriously injure or even kill an employee. This SafeALERT discusses OSHA's requirements for tire inflation. In general, the employer must assure that each employee demonstrates and maintains the ability to service rim wheels safely and provide training on but not limited to:

- ◆ Applicable data in the rim manual/charts.
- ◆ Handling of rim wheels.
- ◆ Installation and removal of rim wheels from the vehicle.
- ◆ Demounting of tires (including deflation).
- ◆ Inspection and identification of the rim wheel components.
- ◆ Single-piece
- ◆ Inflation of the tire when a single piece rim wheel is installed on a vehicle.
- ◆ Knowledge of standing outside the trajectory during inflation of the tire and during an inspection of the rim wheel following inflation.



Tire safety rack

In addition, restraining devices such as a safety tire rack, cage, or equivalent protection shall be provided and used when inflating mounted tires installed on single piece, split rim or rims equipped with locking rings or similar devices. The restraining devices must be inspected daily. OSHA also mandates an air-line assembly for tire inflation consisting of a clip on chuck, an in-line valve with a pressure gauge or a pre-settable regulator, and a sufficient length of hose for inflation of tires.

OSHA Tire Safety Training Publications:

- ◆ For additional information please refer to the Federal OSHA Website at: <https://www.osha.gov/Publications/wheel/wheel-chart-booklet.pdf>.
- ◆ CAL OSHA also has a toolbox safety meeting on tire safety at: https://www.dir.ca.gov/dosh/dosh_publications/tb_wheels.pdf.

The complete OSHA standard on servicing multi and single piece rim wheels can be found at this link: <https://www.osha.gov/laws-regs/regulations/standardnumber/1910/1910.177>

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