

SSOW 25: VEHICLE TYRE STORAGE AND INFLATION

Issue Number: 02

Date of Issue: 31/01/2026

Based on: RA80

PURPOSE

To ensure vehicle tyre storage, handling, and inflation are carried out safely and in a controlled manner, preventing tyre explosions, manual-handling injuries, and harm caused by defective equipment or unsafe inflation practices. This SSOW sets out the safe working practices, competency requirements, and equipment standards required to store, inspect, handle, and inflate tyres in accordance with RA80, manufacturer guidance, and site-specific rules.

PPE REQUIREMENTS

For this activity, the following PPE must be worn

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| ☒ | ☒ | ☒ | ☒ | ☐ | ☐ |
| High-vis Vest / Jacket (BS EN 471) | Safety Boots (EN ISO 20345:2011) (S3) | Safety Gloves (Cut resistant) (EN 420:2003) | Safety Glasses (EN 116:2001) | N/A | N/A |

TRAINING REQUIREMENTS

- Competent and authorised personnel only for tyre handling, fitting, and inflation.
- Familiarity with RA80 and manufacturer tyre-inflation instructions.
- Training in safe manual handling techniques.
- Awareness of ignition-source control and safe working practices around compressed air.
- Understanding of pre-use inspections and defect-reporting procedures.
- Knowledge of workshop automated tyre-inflation systems and safe-distance requirements.

EQUIPMENT REQUIREMENTS

- Automated tyre-inflation system (workshops) or approved tyre-inflator hose (external locations).
- Wheel chocks for securing vehicles during inflation.
- Barriers or cones to segregate the work area where required.
- Clean, dry, well-ventilated tyre-storage area protected from sunlight, chemicals, and deformation risks.
- Certified tools and equipment with valid inspection/calibration records.

SAFE SYSTEM OF WORK

- Only competent authorised personnel are permitted to work with vehicle tyres. This includes movement, fitting and inflation.
- All vehicle tyre inflation and fitting must be carried out in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.
- Full PPE must be worn including appropriate safety glasses and gloves.
- Good housekeeping practices must be maintained at all times.
- Batteries, tools and equipment to be used will be inspected visually prior to use. Should any defects be found, works to stop and items quarantined reporting to line manager.
- Personnel will ensure that any jewellery or metal items such as keys are removed from their person and clothing pockets prior to commencing.
- All tyre fitting required on site will be carried out by an external contractor.
- All tyre inflations carried out by drivers on external premises i.e., petrol stations, tyres must be inflated as per the manufacturer's user guides and the tyre pressure hose used in accordance with petrol station instructions.

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- NO smoking is permitted in the works area, use designated smoking points.
- Works area to be segregated with the use of barriers where possible.
- All workshops have automated tyre inflator valve systems which allow the tyre inflator to be connected and set, it will cut out once completed automatically allowing the user to set up the system and walk away to a safe place.

TYRE STORAGE

- Only trained competent HGV Technicians are permitted to handle, mount and inflate vehicle tyres.
- All tyres must be stored in line with manufacturer instructions and recommendations to prevent deformation and damages.
- All external tyre companies delivering tyres and storing these in Lynch depots must ensure that these are stored correctly.
- All tyres should be cleaned prior to storage where required to prevent mold and degradation.
- Avoid exposure to direct sunlight as UV rays can degrade rubber.
- Keep storage away from chemicals, fuels or solvents.
- Never store items on top of tyres to prevent warping.
- If stored for a long period of time, rotate them every 1-2 months to prevent pressure spots.

How to store tyres with rims

If your tyres are mounted on rims, store them standing upright, hang them up or stack them (two by two maximum).



How to store tyres without rims

If the tyres are not fitted on rims, do not stack or hang them. Store them standing up.



TYRE INFLATION

- Drivers are permitted to inflate tyres to top them up on their vehicles in external areas i.e., petrol stations if needed, or in HGV workshops with the service managers' permission.
- All tyre inflation must be carried out in line with manufacturer instructions at all times.
- The tyre PSI instructions must be adhered to, NEVER overinflate the tyre and exceed the recommended psi. These details can usually be found in the vehicle manual, on a sticker inside the cab door or from the tyre manufacturer.
- DO NOT inflate a tyre that has lost pressure quickly, report the defect accordingly for the HGV workshop to investigate as there could be a puncture or faulty valve.
- Inflate a tyre when it is cold as heat can increase pressure readings.
- Vehicles must be parked on firm level ground with the handbrake engaged and engine off.
- Use wheel chocks to prevent movement if required.
- Prior to inflating tyres, a visual inspection must be carried out looking for cracks, bulges or excessive wear.
- Once ready to proceed, remove the valve cap on the tyre.
- Connect the tyre inflator valve air hose and ensure that it is secure and connected.

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- Set the pressure on the digital screen for the tyre as per the manufacturer specifications.
- Walk away from the vehicle tyre and get to a safe place outside of the likely trajectory zone, do not stand in front.
- Once the tyre is inflated the tyre inflator will automatically cut off, wait 30seconds before approaching.
- Recheck the tyre pressure ensuring that it is correct.
- Once completed disconnect the tyre inflator and replace the valve cap.
- Repeat this process for all tyres as required.

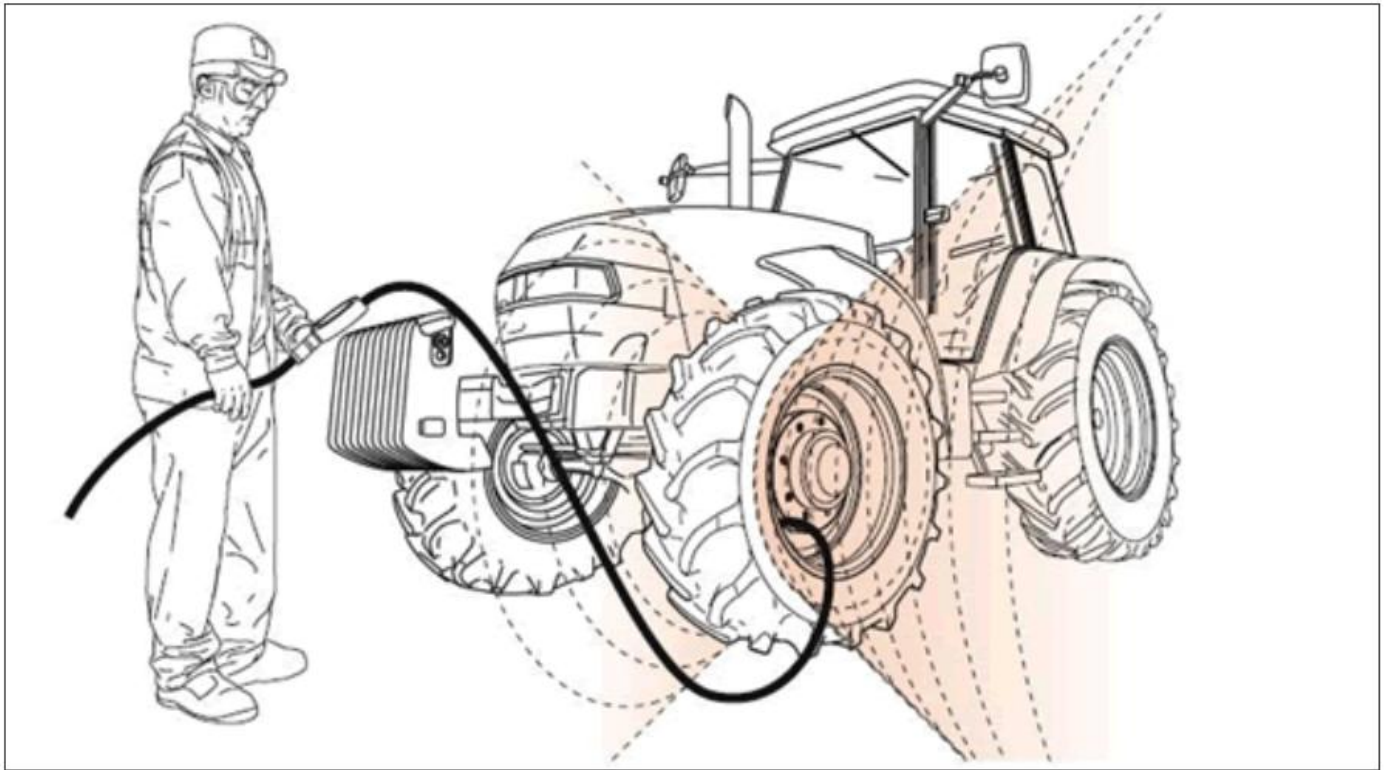


Illustration showing the likely explosion trajectory of a very large tyre

IDENTIFIED RISKS

The SSOW above has been compiled after identifying the following risks from this activity

- Explosion of the tyre or disintegration of the wheel during inflation using compressed air.
- Musculoskeletal injuries from manual handling activities.
- Personal injuries from the use of tools and equipment.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE REFER TO RISK ASSESSMENT RA80