



Allowable Weight for Wide Base Single Heavy Truck Tires in Ontario Harmonized with Conventional Duals

Ontario Implements a Key enviroTruck Proposal

The Government of Ontario has acted to remove a key barrier to improved fuel efficiency by amending its regulations to allow the new generation of fuel-efficient wide base single heavy truck tires to operate at the same weights as conventional dual tires.

Tire rolling resistance accounts for up to 35% of fuel consumption. Wide-base tires have been found on average to produce between 4% and 5% fuel savings compared to conventional duals. This equates to annual Greenhouse Gas (GHG) reductions in the range of 7 to 8 tonnes per vehicle **per year**.

The Ontario Trucking Association, which has been pushing for the change as part of its *enviroTruck* initiative, welcomed the news. OTA president, David Bradley, says "by removing the weight penalty on wide base single tires, carriers will now have the flexibility they need to use single tires on the majority of drive and trailer axle configurations."

Regulation 435/08 will amend the current weights and dimension regulations to allow wide based single tires to operate at weights up to 9,000 kg per axle and provide flexibility on vehicle track width so that retrofitting can take place. This will open the door for fleets to introduce these fuel efficient devices while maintaining the same cargo payload as obtained when operating dual tires.

"OTA has been working with the Ministry of Transportation for the last three years studying and conducting trials of the wide base single tires," said Bradley. "The data collected show there are major potential fuel savings to be had. This is an important step forward in our *enviroTruck* initiative."

The change also harmonizes the allowable weights on wide base single tires between Ontario and Quebec and was part of an agreement announced following a joint meeting of the Ontario and Quebec cabinets last May.

For additional information, including the actual regulations, OTA members are invited to follow this link:

http://www.ontruck.org/members/news/2008/mbnews_2008_12_15_172158_r.php
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