



## Tyres and fuel consumption

# Driving down costs

*In a transport company, trying to control costs is a daily task. And nothing can be neglected. Certainly not the 'tyres' cost centre, whose effect on fuel consumption does not need to be elaborated. But a reminder does no harm...*



*Keeping a check on tyres – indispensable.*

Even if tyres only represent 3% of the average cost of a 40 tonne HGV in Europe, they nevertheless influence 29% of operating costs. In particular, they have an effect on fuel consumption, which represents 17% of these costs. And even though fuel

### Criteria

Choosing the tyres in accordance with the job the truck has to do is a prerequisite. The nature of the terrain, the load, the distances to be covered – these are just some of the elements which will influence this choice. Once these elements have been determined, the tyre cost centre manager will be able to identify the right size and the right profile of tyre depending on the type of vehicle. And the tyres then require strict management. Keeping a check on tyres – sometimes a neglected item – enables their effective performance and their positive effect on consumption to be maintained. A suitable tyre can lead to savings of up to 6% in fuel, and

regular checks can virtually double its life.

So how can a tyre influence consumption? Rolling resistance is responsible for a third of consumption. The lower this resistance, the better the fuel consumption will be. Another element is the tyre pressure: wrongly inflated tyres can be costly, and are dangerous.

The tyre pressure in particular influences how far the tyre can be driven. Under-inflation by 20%, for example, leads to a tyre only producing 81% of the distance a correctly inflated tyre will yield. The cost per kilometre ratio in such a case leads to 23% of extra cost. And if the geometry of the tyre is out of balance, the tyre will wear out faster, will give lower yields in terms of distance, and will increase consumption.

Good tyre management also leads to longer tyre life. A new tyre can be re-etched, retreaded and then re-etched again. Re-etching affects rolling resistance and therefore consumption, and with retreading the tyre turns in identical performance to a new tyre.

■ Michel Buckinx

*“Suitable tyres can lead to fuel savings of up to 6%.”*

prices seem to have come back down to more affordable levels, they still weigh heavily on the expenditure of a transport company. Good management of tyres can have a beneficial effect on fuel consumption.



### TRANSPORTS LURIT: GETTING THE DRIVERS INVOLVED



*Transports Lurit of Montoux in France, with 800 registered trucks, take tyre control very seriously. Henri Moraes, director, explains: “It should first of all be pointed out that a new tyre actually increases consumption by something in the region of 3%. And this is true of all brands. This being the case, we have carried out tests with the new Michelin Energy, and we have noted a reduction of 3% in consumption compared to another tyre of the same brand. Keeping a check on tyres is also essential for maintaining their performance. We ask our drivers to check their tyre pressures once a month”.*

**Drivers at Transports Lurit are partly responsible for keeping a check on tyres.**