

# SERVICE BULLETIN

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## PROPER BEAD SEATING ON RADIAL MEDIUM TRUCK TIRES AND ITS EFFECT ON PERFORMANCE

An improperly seated bead creates "uneven wear patterns", increases the chance for ride/vibration complaints, and creates additional stress in the bead area with the potential for tire failure.



Extreme stress may be placed on beads forced into the rim flange in a distorted manner, which may cause fatigue in tire components and result in tire failure.

During the mounting process, never assume the bead is seated when it appears to have moved against the rim flange: the beads may be only partially seated (see diagram). Make your service personnel completely aware of the proper techniques for correctly seating a bead in the mounting process. Train your service personnel to strictly follow the Rubber Manufacturers Association's "DEMOUNTING AND MOUNTING PROCEDURES FOR TRUCK/BUS TIRES", and emphasize the following steps:

1. **ALWAYS** check the rim for potential problems. Rusty or dirty rims should be cleaned thoroughly to ensure a clean bead seat area. Bent or cracked rims should be destroyed and replaced.
2. **ALWAYS** lubricate both beads and both rim flanges with an accepted lubricant.

**CONSUMER RELATIONS**

**COOPER TIRE**

3. **ALWAYS** be sure to inflate the tire/rim assembly in a safety cage or other approved restraining device. **NEVER** inflate beyond 5 psi before placing the tire/rim assembly in the restraining device. Use a clip-on air chuck and remain out of the trajectory path (extending outward from both sidewalls).
4. **ALWAYS** be sure the tire is properly seated by checking to see that the distance between the rim flange and the aligning ring is uniform around the complete circumference on both sides of the tire. If this is not the case, the tire/rim assembly must be broken down and the procedure started over.

**MOUNTING TIRES IS DANGEROUS -  
FAILURE TO FOLLOW THE ABOVE AND RMA'S  
"DEMOUNTING AND MOUNTING PROCEDURES  
FOR TRUCK/BUS TIRES" CHART AND SAFETY  
PRECAUTIONS CAN RESULT IN SERIOUS INJURY  
OR DEATH**

If you sell radial medium truck tires to other dealers (sub-dealers) or fleet accounts, each should receive a copy of this Service Bulletin. Please advise Cooper or your supplier of the number of Service Bulletins that are needed for your sub-dealers and we will provide them to you at no charge. You may order this Service Bulletin through the Consumer Relations Department, Cooper Tire & Rubber Company, Findlay, Ohio 45840. Should you wish to order copies of RMA's "Demounting and Mounting Procedures for Truck/Bus Tires" chart, you should contact RMA at the following address:

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