



INFORMATION BULLETIN

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California Tire Pressure Regulations UPDATE

A Message from the California Air Resources Board We Get Questions... Tire Inflation Regulations

On September 10, 2010, new regulations adopted by the California Air Resources Board (ARB) impose new requirements on automotive service providers concerning the checking and inflating of a vehicle's tires to the recommended tire pressure rating. To assist Automotive Repair Dealers (ARDs) registered with the Bureau of Automotive Repair (BAR), the following is designed to clarify the requirements of the regulation.

What types of businesses are considered automotive service providers and subject to the provisions of the regulations?

According to the regulations, an automotive service provider is any business, or government or private vehicle fleet maintenance provider, that performs or offers to perform automotive maintenance or repair services (including, but not limited to, automotive dealerships, maintenance or repair garages, government or publicly maintained or operated fleets, oil change facilities, tire centers, and Smog Check facilities).

What exactly do the regulations require?

Beginning on September 1, 2010, all automotive service providers are required to: Check and inflate each vehicle's

1. Tires to the recommended tire pressure rating, with air or nitrogen, as appropriate, at the time of performing any automotive maintenance or repair service.
2. Indicate on the vehicle service invoice that a tire inflation service was completed and the tire pressure measurements after the services were performed.
3. Perform the tire pressure service using a tire pressure gauge with a total permissible error no greater than \pm two pounds per square inch (psi).
4. Have access to a tire inflation reference that is within three years of publication.
5. Keep a copy of the vehicle service invoice for a minimum of three years and make the vehicle service invoice available to ARB, or its authorized representative, upon request.

When does an automotive service provider not need to perform a check and inflate service?

In general, an automotive service provider does not need to perform the check and inflate service if:

1. The tires are on a vehicle with a Gross Vehicle Weight Rating (GVWR) over 10,000 pounds.
2. The tires are determined by the automotive service provider to be unsafe.
3. The customer declines the check and inflate service.

What is the effective date?

September 1, 2010.

Do I have to offer a free tire inflation service?

No, but if you do offer a free check and inflate tire service and that service is the only one being performed, then the automotive service provider does not need to meet the regulation requirements.

If an 18-wheeler comes into my shop for repairs, do I have to check all 18 tires?

No, this regulation only applies to vehicles with a GVWR of 10,000 pounds or less.

Do I have to keep copies of all invoices on-site for inspection?

No, the vehicle service invoices kept off-site must be made available to enforcement personnel within 72 hours of an official written or oral request.

Will there be a grace period before the regulation is enforced?

All automotive service providers are expected to comply with the requirements. However, there will be a short outreach and implementation period when the regulation becomes effective, and automotive service providers will have an initial enforcement grace period. During this time, ARB staff will be available to help implement the regulation and answer questions regarding compliance.

What type of tire inflation reference do I need?

The most popular tire inflation reference resources that are in use by automotive service providers are the "Tire Guide" and the Tire and Rim Association "Year Book." ARB does not endorse or recommend either resource. Automotive service providers may use any reference resource of their choosing, as long as it meets the regulatory requirements.

Do autobody shops have to comply with this regulation?

No, autobody and paint facilities, auto glass installers, auto parts distributors, and auto wreckers or dismantlers do not have to comply with this regulation.

What happens if a customer needs to fill their tires with nitrogen and I don't have a nitrogen inflation service? Do I have to provide a nitrogen inflation service?

No, a customer may refuse the inflation portion of the service if a nitrogen system is not available at the time of service. Automotive service providers are still subject to the other regulation requirements. The tires will still need to be checked and it will also need to be noted on the invoice that the nitrogen inflation service was not available at the time of the service.

What do I write on the service invoice?

You will need to indicate on the service invoice that a tire inflation service was completed and the tire pressure measurements after the service was performed.

What type of tire pressure gauge do I need to have?

When performing the tire pressure service, you will need to use a gauge with a total permissible error rate no greater than \pm two psi.

What happens if a customer doesn't want me to check their tires?

Customers may decline the check and inflate tire service if they affirm that a tire pressure service has been performed in the last 30 days or they will perform a tire pressure service within the next seven days. If a tire inflation service was not performed, the automotive service provider must indicate on the vehicle service invoice why the service was not completed.

My fleet vehicle is maintained by a fleet maintenance program. Who is responsible for keeping the service invoice requirement?

The fleet maintenance provider must keep a copy of the vehicle service invoice.

Where can I go to learn more about the regulations?

To learn more about the regulations and their requirements, visit www.arb.ca.gov.