

### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Some vehicles may have Left Hand Thread wheel studs on the Passenger side
- Do not overtighten wheel nuts as this may cause further damage
- Regularly check your spare tyre is correctly inflated & in good condition

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# **Plant Safety Bulletin**

### VOLUME I, ISSUE 2

#### **JUNE 2009**

# Heavy Vehicle Tyres & Wheels

To ensure the safety of drivers, crews and other road users, it is important to ensure that heavy vehicles are regularly checked and maintained in accordance with operational and road safety regulations.

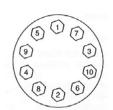
#### All drivers are legally responsible for the safety and roadworthiness of the vehicles they drive.

One of the key factors in ensuring safe performance on the road is the condition of wheels and tyres. The following items should be regularly checked :

- Wheel rims undamaged
- Wheels secure—nuts tight
- Tyres undamaged
- Tyre tread legal depth of at least 1.5mm
- Tyres correctly inflated

It is necessary to ensure that all drivers are aware of the risks associated with not correctly maintaining tyres and wheels. Loose wheel nuts especially can cause a wheel to dislodge from the vehicle which may then enter oncoming traffic and cause serious if not fatal injuries to vehicle occupants, bystanders or damage to nearby property.

When a wheel is changed, it is important to make sure that the wheel nuts are tightened to the specified torque and in the correct sequence. The sample diagram on the right indicates a typical tightening sequence to ensure the wheel is mounted squarely on the axle.



Note: Special tightening procedures may also be required for dual wheels.

<u>Caution:</u> After changing a tyre, the wheel nuts will loosen somewhat during the initial stages of driving due to "wear-in". Therefore retighten the wheel nuts to specification after you have driven 50 to 100km, and periodically from then on.

Incorrect tyre pressures can also result in the following negative performance impacts:

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- Poor ride quality
- Damage to cargo
- Loss of fuel efficiency
- Poor vehicle handling
- Tyre failure in service

Check your vehicle operating handbook or owners manual for the correct tyre inflation pressures, wheel nut torques and tyre replacement procedures for your vehicle.

