

INDUSTRY RECOMMENDED PRACTICES

Transition the Tire Industry Away from Lead Wheel Weights

ISSUE:

Several states* have made it illegal to sell, manufacture or install lead wheel weights and some major tire manufacturers and leading retail organizations have voluntarily removed lead wheel weights from their operations or are transitioning away from lead.

INDUSTRY RECOMMENDED PRACTICES:

These best practices describe procedures to follow in transitioning away from lead wheel weights and the precautions that should be followed to ensure the proper handling, management and recycling of existing lead wheel weights.

- If you are currently purchasing lead wheel weights, contact your supplier to transition away from lead, replacing the wheel weights with non-lead material. The most common alternative material is steel, but other non-toxic alternatives are also being used, including high-density polymers in specialty applications, and aluminum and zinc alloys. Ask your wheel weight supplier if they have a program for recycling the old wheel weights.
- You may also check with your automotive battery supplier or a local scrap metal recycler. Recycle used lead wheel weights in an environmentally responsible manner.
- Designate a storage space for the used lead wheel weights. Store the lead in a labeled container that is capable of handling the excessive weight of lead.
- Ensure that no lead weights leave the shop as trash or litter. Do not leave lead wheel weights on bay floors, parking lots or allow them to fall into floor drains or storm water drains.
- Provide training to ensure that shop employees are conscientious about the need to treat lead wheel weights with special care. In addition, all employees who handle lead wheel weights should be instructed to wash their hands regularly for proper hygiene.

** States in which lead weights are illegal: California, Minnesota, Illinois, Maine, New York, Vermont, Washington, New Jersey, and Maryland.*

WHEN REFERENCING THIS RECOMMENDATION, BE SURE TO FOLLOW ALL FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL LAWS AND REGULATIONS RELATING TO THIS SUBJECT.