

Wheel Products Europe

NEWSLETTER

April 2009

Alcoa takes the lead in further weight savings

Early 2008, the new Alcoa "lightweight" wheel series in 22.5 x 8.25, 22.5 x 9.00, 19.5 x 7.50 and 19.5 x 8.25 was introduced. We continued to work on making our forged wheels better and lighter and in February 2009, we launched the lightweight FrontRunner® 22.5 x 11.75, 120 mm offset wheel.

Alcoa Wheel Products Europe has succeeded in lowering the weight of the FrontRunner® wheel from 25 kg to 23.6 kg, another reduction of 1.4 kg! This wheel can be mounted on the front axle of trucks and on trailer axles.

The new wheel, which is interchangeable with the current one, on top also features

- repositioned hand-hole design
- rim flanges with a patented Unified Rim Horn Design, allowing to accommodate both stick- and clip-on balancing weights.



The new FrontRunner® has passed US SAE J267 truck wheel tests, as well as European LBF Eurocycle and TÜV tests.



22.5x11.75 120 mm 22.5x9.00 22.5x11.75 120 mm

Weight comparison	Steel	Alcoa	weight saving
<u>Front axle</u>			
2 wheels 22.5x11.75, 120 mm	90,40	47,20	43,20 kg
<u>Rear axle</u>			
4 wheels 22.5x9.00	164,00	92,80	71,20 kg
<u>Trailer</u>			
6 wheels 22.5x11.75, 120 mm	271,20	141,60	<u>129,60 kg</u>
			244,00

New Dura-Flange® wheel sizes available

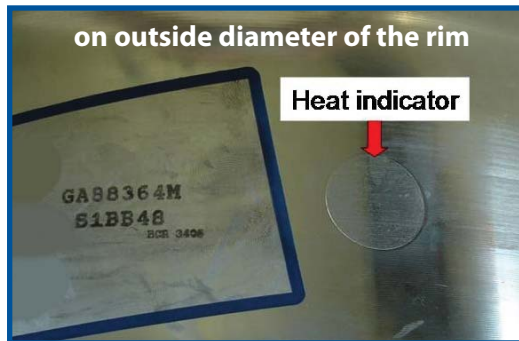
Due to increased popularity of the Dura-Flange® treatment, Alcoa added new wheel sizes to the already existing range of Dura-Flange® wheels. Today Dura-Flange® wheels are also available in dimension 22.5 x 11.75, both with 120 mm and 135 mm offset.

Alcoa Dura-Flange® wheels have a patented treatment on the wheel that provides a protective shield to prevent rim wear. This design feature makes Dura-Flange® wheels most appropriate for applications where loads are heavy and prone to shifting, causing tyre walls to rub against the wheel rims. Alcoa Dura-Flange® wheels are the only aluminium wheels on the market today that are protected from this type of wear, giving them at least double the life of other aluminium wheels.



Alcoa introduces improved wheel logo

Alcoa Wheel Products Europe introduced a new Pressure Applied Logo label, replacing the traditional transparent sticker on all European wheels starting mid February, 2009. It has excellent solvent and moisture resistance and ultimate adhesion. The higher polymer logo is in aluminum color and is designed for a longer, extended wear on the wheel.



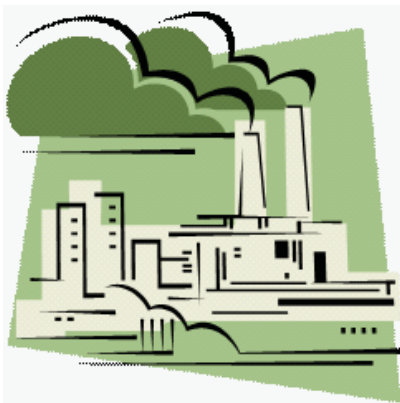
... and adds extra safety feature

Along with the introduction of the new label, a Heat Indicator label was added in two places on every wheel. Alcoa's never ending commitment to safety and innovation led to the development of the Heat Indicators. When the wheel is exposed to excessive thermal heat (brake or tire fire), the Heat Indicator label discolors. The Heat Indicators are just one step for the operator in checking the serviceability of Alcoa forged aluminum wheels.

The heat indicator turns

- brown when over heated
- black when exposed to direct fire

Immediately remove from service any wheel that has been exposed to excessive heat.



Alcoa Continues to Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions

On February 16, 2009 Alcoa announced that it continues its leadership position on climate change by achieving a 36 percent reduction in total direct greenhouse gas emissions in 2008 from its worldwide primary aluminum production process, a 3 percent reduction over 2007 levels.

Alcoa outlined an aggressive schedule for reducing its environmental impact in its 2020 Strategic Framework for Sustainability. For instance, the company's initial goal was to achieve a 25 percent reduction in worldwide direct greenhouse gases by 2010 from a base year of 1990. Alcoa reached that goal seven years ahead of the timeframe, and it continues to seek emission reductions or offsetting opportunities.

"This is operational excellence at its best," said Alcoa Chairman Alain Belda. *"It is the result of commitment to process improvement, to waste elimination, to use of best technology and tools available, and commitment to the environment. And, above all, it shows what a team of employees can achieve who are committed and capable of deploying plans and executing the required actions day after day."*

"Reducing emissions while improving production practices with little capital investment is an indication of the great things a team can achieve when pointed at a task," said Alcoa President and CEO Klaus Kleinfeld. *"I have great confidence in our capabilities to continue attaining further environmental improvements."*

In January 2009 Alcoa was named as one of the most sustainable corporations in the world in the fifth annual Global 100 ranking of the top role models in sustainable business practices, during the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland. Alcoa has attained the sustainability ranking every year since the Global 100 was launched in 2005. Alcoa is the only U.S. based company named to the list from the Materials sector.

Amantini Trasporti & Alcoa Wheels - a relationship forged on quality and image



Amantini Trasporti, based in Cesena/Italy are specialized in the daily transport of fresh fish and other food products from Italy to Spain and back. Thanks to their excellent logistical organization, they can deliver the goods directly to the main large retailer chains and the most important fish and fruit- and vegetable markets in both countries.

This refrigerated transport company was founded by Bruno Amantini in 1979. Mr. Amantini started with just one vehicle. Today the company operates two refrigerated logistics centers of over 1200 m² in Italy and Spain, with 39 trucks, 8 refrigerated rigids and 42 reefer trailers and employs 100 employees.

Before 1998 their vehicles were equipped with cast aluminium wheels. Then a decision was made to improve on the quality of the wheels. Since 1998 all their vehicles are specified on Alcoa forged aluminium wheels, with a preference for the shiny Mirror Polished finish. As Mr Lorenzo Rocchi, the vehicle manager, states: *"Alcoa aluminium wheels is the best possible choice. Thanks to these wheels, we cannot only improve our payload, but at the same time preserve and lengthen the brake and tire life of our trucks, as well as give our vehicles a better, cleaner image in line with the high level of services we provide to our customers."*

Half a ton of weight saving thanks to Alcoa wheels on Putzmeister top of the Line Utility Vehicle

The largest truck-mounted concrete pump in the world, the BSS 70-5 from Putzmeister is a superlative of a special kind. The 500HP Kenworth tractor and trailer have a total length of 21.4 meters. With 10 axles – of which 3 drive axles – this vehicle is extraordinary with regard to other parameters as well, including a vertical reach of 69.3 meters!

Due to the many technical details (for example, a 450HP Deutz separate engine is also included), the total weight of the vehicle is of course considerable: with the relevant necessary supports (technical highlight: the tractor serves as counter-weight when the concrete pump is in use!), the size of the main mast and the additional special features, its 80 tons make the BSS 70-5 a real heavy-weight in traffic.

However, priority was given - where possible - to lightweight structures, to maintain street usability.

The 26 Alcoa wheels are a perfect example of that: compared to steel wheels, the use of forged aluminium wheels reduces weight by more than half a ton on this vehicle! In addition, the great looking wheels also offer many technical advantages. All in all, a fine piece of engineering!



Improved efficiency thanks to Alcoa wheels at Van Tonder Transport Services, South Africa

From the first glance it is clear that Van Tonder Transport oozes quality, from the neat clipped lawns and the well equipped workshop to the spotless vehicles.

Van Tonder Transport started their operation in Kuruman back in 1989 with one truck.

Today this family owned company is the biggest specialized bulk grain transporter in South Africa, operating a fleet of 50 MAN trucks and Trailord grain-links which have a capacity of 37 tons per combination. This enables them to haul 44000 metric tons a month over long distances and 100 000 tons over shorted distances, where they are able to deliver 2 to 3 loads per truck per day.



Their workshop is MAN approved. All the mechanics are well equipped and attend MAN courses on a regular basis to keep them up to date with the newest technology. Their philosophy is to rather have their rigs on the road than in the workshop, so all maintenance is carried out with diligence, not only ensuring little down-time but also the safety of their drivers and other road users. Van Tonder only use new tyres mounted on Alcoa forged aluminium wheels. They claim to have the best cent/km running cost on their tyres in the market. All of their vehicles are under 24 hour satellite surveillance; which enables them not only to keep customers up to date on the location of their load, but also gives them an accurate ETA of the load. The trailers are bottom dischargers that can off load in less than 5 minutes without any labour.



"Since we converted all our vehicles to Alcoa wheels, we have noted a considerable increase in tire life and fuel saving. In an extra effort to minimize downtime, we have started to convert all existing truck and trailers to Dura-Bright® wheels."

All new rigs are specified on Dura-Bright® as well. As in every partnership we are looking for a win-win scenario and we feel we have achieved this with Alcoa Wheels." states Danie Van Tonder.



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