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LOAD: the 2nd  
Biggest Factor

Special Edition Four

real QUESTIONS  
real ANSWERS

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**BRIDGESTONE**

***BridgestoneTrucktires.com***

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## LOAD: the 2<sup>nd</sup> Biggest Factor

Bridgestone tests indicate that after speed, load is the second most important factor in the fuel consumption of heavy duty trucks.

### The Effect of Load on Fuel Savings

*Bridgestone tests indicate that reducing payload 10,000 pounds produces about a 3.9 percent savings in fuel.*

FUEL SAVINGS

20

15

10

5

80,000

70,000

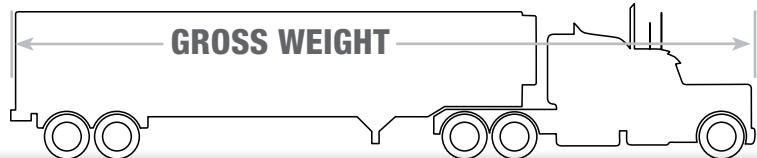
60,000

40,000  
(empty)

3.9%

7.7%

15.5%



### Load & fuel savings

Although tests show that reducing load by 10,000 pounds could cut fuel consumption by about 3.9 percent, *maximum* payload is usually your primary goal.

The good news is, there *are* ways to increase payload – by decreasing *non-paying* load. Lighter-weight accessories and tires (like low profile or wide base radials) can help increase revenue-producing capacity without adding to gross weight.

## Wide base tires

Wide base tires may have lower rolling resistance than dual assemblies – if the tires in the dual assembly are not of a fuel-efficient type.

## Weight Savings with Wide Base Radials

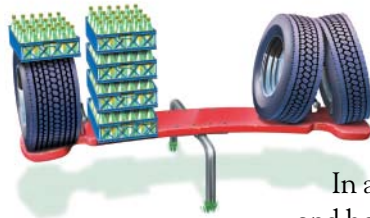


**WIDE BASE  
181 lb per TIRE**



**LOW PROFILE  
250 lb per PAIR**

*Wide base tires can allow weight savings to be converted into revenue-producing payload and may be more fuel-efficient than ordinary dual assemblies.*



They also save weight, which may be able to be converted into extra payload, a very good tradeoff if you can take advantage of it.

In addition, in some cases, especially with certain tankers and hopper-bottom trailers, using wide base radials may allow spring shackles to be moved farther apart, so the container may be positioned closer to the ground.

The result is a lower center of gravity, which can produce superior lateral stability.

Some fleets also like wide base radials because they simplify their parts inventories, requiring fewer wheels and tires and may be easier to maintain.

Wide base tires may be more fuel-efficient than some dual assemblies, as we'll see when we discuss tire construction. If you can take advantage of the weight savings they offer, they're worth considering. **TA**

