

## Let us Answer Your TPMS

### Questions:

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- Why is TPMS necessary?
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# Understanding TPMS

## What is TPMS?

TPMS stands for Tire Pressure Monitoring System.

## Why is it necessary?

Congress passed the Transportation Recall Enhancement, Accountability and Documentations Act (TREAD Act) in 2000, in response to a major recall of defective tires that created unsafe driving conditions. The TREAD Act required vehicle manufacturers to equip 20 percent of their 2006 model year vehicles with TPMS. The number increases to 70 percent of 2007 model vehicles, and to 100 percent of all 2008 model vehicles.

## Is my vehicle equipped with TPMS?

To determine if your vehicle came equipped with a TPM system, turn your ignition key to the accessories position and look for a "low tire pressure" warning indicator on the dash. You can also refer to your owner's manual. The most common indicators are shown below.

## How does my TPMS work?

There are two different systems being used today – direct TPMS, and Indirect TPMS. Direct TPMS uses a sensor that is mounted in the wheel. This sensor transmits data to the vehicle's computer system. Direct TPMS measures the air pressure in each tire and is designed to warn you when the pressure drops 25% below the manufacturer's recommended level. Indirect TPMS works with your vehicle's Antilock Braking System (ABS). When a tire is low, this system measures the difference in the diameter of the tires to set off the warning light. Some vehicles are equipped to tell you which tire is actually low – others can only sense a difference in pressure. These vehicles cannot tell you which tire has been affected.

## What should I do if my warning indicator comes on?

Check your air pressure as you normally would, and note any tire needing adjustment. If it is necessary, install the spare tire. Then bring your vehicle in to Bangor Tire. Our technicians will perform a systems test to insure all of your sensors are working properly, check your air pressure, and then break down the tire remove the sensor and repair the tire as we normally would.

## How do you reset the low tire pressure indicator?

A technician will inspect the sensor, then reprogram your PM system. They must follow the manufacturer's procedures while using our scan tool to pick up the frequencies emitted by the sensors. Some vehicles could require an additional re-learn time.

## What are the benefits of TPMS?

Monitoring and maintaining proper tire pressure increases driver safety and improves vehicle performance in a number of ways. Properly inflated tires improve handling, decrease tire wear, reduce braking distance, and improve fuel economy.

## Is this system costly?

The direct TPMS system has some added cost. The sensors range in cost from \$50 - \$250 in most cases. It is necessary to replace the valve stem nut and o-ring with each tire removal which costs approximately \$5 per wheel. It does require extra tools and time for our technicians to check the system before, and reprogram the system after each service - \$12.95 per visit. The indirect system adds no extra cost.

## What is the estimated life of a sensor?

Barring any external damage, the sensors battery life expectancy is approximately 7 years. Fleet vehicles can expect shorter life.

## Are there any precautions I should take with this system?

With the direct TPMS, you should never use a tire sealant to temporarily fix a flat tire. This will damage the sensor and require replacement. Also, never disable the system by replacing the sensor valve stem with a regular valve stem. This will cause the low tire warning light to remain on indefinitely. With the indirect TPMS, please be aware that if your vehicle's ABS system is not functioning properly, your TPMS is not working properly. This should have immediate attention to insure proper function for both systems.