

## Technical Service Bulletin

To: **All Sumitomo Tire Dealers**  
Date: **June 21, 2006**  
No: **06-01**  
Re: **Sidewall Cracking on Sport Truck Tires**

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The popularity of SUV's and 'plus' sizing continues to grow in the U.S. Along with this growth comes some important reminders to service this segment. Low profile Sport Truck / SUV tires are sensitive to cracking when under-inflated or overloaded due to the low sidewall height and relatively stiffer sidewalls. During use, an over-flexed tire will often start cracking on the outer sidewall early in the tire life as shown below.



Sumitomo Tire recommends you do not sell a 'plus' fitment size that has a lower load index than the original equipment tire. Any tires showing evidence of under-inflation, overloading, or are of inadequate load carrying capacity for the tires replaced will not qualify for warranty coverage. Shoulder wear and/or several lines (wrinkles) on the middle inner liner are common indications of under-inflation or overloading. Dealers must inspect tires before assuming that the sidewall cracking is a warrantable product problem.

Shoulder Wear

Several lines on the mid inner-liner

