

# Uponor Case Study

## Snapshot

Uponor Ltd, one of the leading manufacturers of lifetime plastic piping solutions, fitted Continental solid Super Elastic SC 15 tyres to drive down operating costs, reducing the tyre budget by 50% and significantly improving service life and performance across its forklift truck fleet.



## About Uponor Ltd



Uponor is one of the leading manufacturers of smart, cost effective lifetime plastic piping solutions. A natural partner to the utilities, Uponor offers a wide range of smart solutions for gas and water distribution, underground sewer and drainage systems. The company also supplies plumbing and heating systems for the residential and commercial building markets. Uponor's UK operation is run from its Blackwell headquarters in Derbyshire, with a further three offices and three manufacturing sites. Worldwide, Uponor has 30 offices spanning Europe and North America.

## Benefits for Uponor Ltd

Since fitting Continental's Super Elastic SC 15, Uponor has benefited from:

- Tyre service life doubled compared to previous tyres fitted
- Reduced downtime
- Increased productivity
- Improved cushioning and shock resistance for driver comfort and load protection
- Reduced tyre operating costs

## The Forklift Fleet

Uponor runs a fleet of 30 forklift trucks and side loaders, all Toyota, Kalmar & Boss, at its three UK manufacturing sites. Almost all vehicles are fitted with Continental tyres. It is a 24 hour continuous operation on an eight hour shift rotation, loading and unloading raw materials and finished products. The fleet is wholly owned by Uponor, although the company outsources servicing to Impact Toyota for cost efficiency.

## Business Issues



Uponor's forklifts and side loaders were running on two sets of tyres per year. Transport Manager, Gary Wain, needed to improve fleet efficiency, and he realised that tyre life and operating performance played a key role.

## The Solution

Following a thorough investigation of the tyre options available, Gary decided to trial premium Continental SC15 tyres on his fleet.

This decision was based on Continental's reputation as a premium industrial tyre brand, designed to deliver outstanding life, even in the most demanding conditions. Gary found the improvements in terms of tyre life and performance achieved by fitting SC 15 to be significant.

"We budget for two sets of tyres per year, but since fitting Continental SC 15 we run on just one set, which has considerable cost savings for our fleet operation," explained Gary. "As well as improved running hours and mileage, our drivers appreciate the softer, more cushioned ride that the SC 15s deliver."

Uponor has also benefited in terms of reduced downtime, as fewer tyre replacements are required, which has helped to improve productivity of the fleet. Today, nearly all of Uponor's forklifts and side loaders are fitted with Continental SC 15, both SIT (snap in tyre) and standard.



## About Continental SC 15

The outstanding service life that Uponor is achieving from its SC 15 is thanks to the tyre's unique flat steel cord construction, which reinforces the base of the tyre and improves stability. This improves stability and reduces vibration to prolong the life of both the tyre and the vehicle. The SC 15 is extremely robust, stable, and its construction ensures even wear throughout tyre life.

SC 15 applications include:

- Forklift Trucks
- Platform & Lift Trucks
- Ro-Ro Trailers
- Side Loaders
- Industrial Tractors



## Business relationship

Continental builds partnerships with its customers that go far beyond the tyre, understanding their business and operational requirements to deliver optimum results. A good example of this is Continental's fleet tyre audits. Uponor takes advantage of this service every three months, which provides Gary with a health check of the tyres fitted to each vehicle. The audits provide a thorough report on tyre hours performed, tread and wear status and replacement schedule.

"We have an excellent relationship with Continental – long may it continue." Gary Wain.

For more information on Continental Fleet Tyre Audits, the Continental SC 15 or any other industrial tyre enquiry, contact the Industrial Hotline on 0845 6000 803 or fax 01895 425 996

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