

Safeway to use nitrogen in fleet's tires

Tire Business staff report

PHOENIX (July 7, 2009) — Grocery chain Safeway Inc. will begin using nitrogen instead of compressed air to inflate the tires in its truck and trailer fleet.

According to a report in *Transport Topics*, a newsletter published by the American Trucking Associations Inc., the Phoenix-based food retailer plans to use nitrogen tire inflation in about 80 tractors and 320 trailers.

Supplying nitrogen for Safeway's fleet is NitrogenMan Tire Inflation, a Phoenix company that says it is the first free-standing, drive-through facility in Arizona offering nitrogen tire inflation. According to its Web site, NitrogenMan can, in less than 30 minutes, purge compressed air from tires and refill them with nitrogen starting at \$24.95 for four tires and a spare, with pricing based on tire size. The company also offers mobile tire inflation and is a supplier and distributor of Parker Hannifin Corp. and Branick Industries Inc. nitrogen inflations systems.

Frank Ruscitti, owner of NitrogenMan, told *Tire Business* his company has installed a Parker Nitrogen System at Safeway's Tempe, Ariz., distribution center and is training the chain's staff "on the proper procedure for purging and filling tires with nitrogen. They plan to have the Arizona fleet converted by August."

Safeway is one of North America's largest food and drug retailers. The company operates stores in the Western, Southwestern, Rocky Mountain and Mid-Atlantic regions of the U.S. and in western Canada.