

PRODUCT BULLETIN



SNAP-IN SENSORS

Snap-in sensors can look like regular rubber valve stems. But, the molded rubber on the snap-in valve stem does not reach the threads and there is a tapered shoulder. These valves have a longer cap than a non-TPMS valve stem.

Behind the stem is a mounting point for a self-tapping screw that holds the sensor to the stem. There are two installation methods depending on the type of snap-in valve stem you are installing. Always check the instructions or the manufacturer's recommendation.

The first method is installing the valve stem in the rim and then attaching the sensor. The second method is to attach the sensor to the valve stem and then insert into the wheel. Why? On some stems, the sensor could come in contact with the wheel as the stem is pulled with the sensor attached.

When attaching a new valve to the sensor body, always use a preset torque screwdriver with the correct torx head or hex nut. Most tool suppliers package two preset torque drivers in a set. Due to different manufacturers, the torque settings may differ. The end of the valve stem is not threaded and requires a self tapping screw.



Self Tapping screws provide superior prevailing torque, requires low torque, and provides excellent resistance to vibrational loosening. The self tapping screw can only be used once, the same also applies to the stem.



PRODUCT BULLETIN

When tightening the screw, be mindful of stress on the sensor and the alignment of the sensor. Start the screw for the first couple of threads and make sure the sensor and stem are aligned. When performing the final tightening sequence, stop when the tool clicks indicating the proper torque has been reached.

Before installing the valve stem, it is acceptable to lubricate the seating surfaces with an approved tire lubricant. Do not use chassis grease or a grease with petroleum distillates. These types of lubricates can degrade the stem over time and cause a leak. Lubricating the stem can help in the alignment of the sensor.

When using a tire valve stem installation tool, pull the valve stem straight through the valve hole and not at an angle.

Some valve stems have a tab on the body of the valve that can help in the alignment of the sensor.

The rubber bulb of the valve should be resting against the rim and the sensor body should not be touching the rim for most applications.



Final Note: Snap-In Valve stems should be replaced at every tire service.

(Photos and this article courtesy of Front End and Brake)