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By Recall Management Division at 7:25 am, Mar 15, 2011

11T-002  
(4 pages)

March 14, 2011

Mr. Frank Borris  
Director, Office of Defects Investigation  
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration  
1200 New Jersey Ave. SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Mr. Borris,

Continental Tire the Americas is submitting the enclosed Defect Information Report pursuant to 49 CFR Part 573, Defect and Noncompliance Responsibility and Reports.

Continental Tire will conduct a voluntary safety recall campaign to replace the affected tires.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "D. Crawford".

Donald Crawford  
Quality Management

Continental Tire the Americas, LLC  
1830 MacMillan Park Drive  
Fort Mill, SC 29707

**CONTINENTAL TIRE THE AMERICAS, LLC  
NOTIFICATION CONCERNING LT275/70R18  
CONTITRAC AND CONTITRAC TR TIRES  
DEFECT INFORMATION REPORT  
PURSUANT TO 49 CFR PART 573.6**

**1. Manufacturer's name/address:**

Continental Tire de Mexico S.A.de C.V.  
Central Camionera, Zona Industrial  
San Luis Potosi, SLP  
Mexico

Which is represented in the United States for purposes of this report by :

Continental Tire the Americas, LLC  
1830 Macmillan Park Drive  
Fort Mill, SC 29707

Continental Tire the Americas, LLC ("CTA") imported and distributed the affected tires and assumes responsibility for conducting the forthcoming voluntary safety recall campaign.

**2. Vehicles or Equipment involved in this defect notification:**

LT275/70R18 125/122S Load Range E Continental ContiTrac TR  
Outline White Letters - DOT "P515 46U0 1807" through "P515 46U0 2308"

LT275/70R18 125/122S Load Range E Continental ContiTrac TR  
Black Sidewall - DOT "P515 46XB 2607" through "P515 46XB 2408"

LT275/70R18 125/122S Load Range E Continental ContiTrac  
Black Sidewall - DOT "P515 46YB 4307" through "P515 46YB 3708"

The majority (330,360) of the above tires were supplied for use as original equipment on a limited number of new trucks manufactured by Ford Motor Company.

The remainder of the tires were sold as replacement tires.

The DOT Tire Identification Number (TIN) range of the above tires is from May 6, 2007 till September 20, 2008.

**3. Total number of vehicles or items of equipment:**

390,657 tires in the following 3 tire descriptions are potentially affected:

LT275/70R18 125/122S Load Range E Continental ContiTrac TR  
Outline White Letters - 160,746 tires

LT275/70R18 125/122S Load Range E Continental ContiTrac TR  
Black Sidewall - 189,701 tires

LT275/70R18 125/122S Load Range E Continental ContiTrac  
Black Sidewall - 40,210 tires

**4. Approximate percentage of vehicles or equipment estimated to actually contain the defect:**

While only a small number of incidents have been reported, it is not possible to estimate how many of the tires mentioned in section 3 contain this performance issue. Accordingly, the notification and remedy campaign will address 100% of the potentially affected tires in the field.

**5. Description of the defect:**

Some of the tires within the affected population may experience uneven wear, vibration, or particularly under conditions of overloading or under inflation in high ambient temperature usage, separation between the belt edges potentially leading to a tread detachment.

**6. Chronological summary of events leading to this determination:**

In September 2009, CTA began to observe an increase in warranty returns and property damage claims for the articles listed in section 3. CTA monitored these returns and property damage claims to watch this issue to determine whether the performance of these tires presented a safety related defect.

Throughout 2010, CTA monitored these returns and property damage claims.

In January 2011, CTA received notice of an incident involving a personal injury and fatality in a vehicle equipped with a tire from the above population and promptly requested the tire for analysis.

In February 2011, CTA received the tire. CTA analyzed this tire and re-evaluated other tires in its possession, associated with property damage claims. CTA then escalated its monitoring efforts and conducted a more detailed investigation into the potential causes for the reported incidents. CTA was not able to identify a root cause.

On March 7, 2011, based on its analysis of returned tires, warranty data and claims, CTA reached the conclusion to initiate this recall.

**7. Description of proposed remedy (including schedule for dealer and customer notification):**

CTA will do the following:

- (1) Conduct a notification and remedy campaign to replace tires installed as original equipment .
- (2) Conduct a campaign to replace the subject tires that have been sold as replacement tires or are in dealer inventories.
- (3) CTA is still developing its schedule for dealer and customer notification and will provide the schedule to the agency, under separate cover, in the near future.

**8. Program for remedy campaign (including program for reimbursing any consumer who obtained the remedy at his/her own expense within one year of the opening of the EA, or within one year of this 573 report, whichever is earlier):**

Consistent with the terms and conditions described on the CTA reimbursement form, CTA will offer to reimburse the replacement cost for any customers who, prior to this campaign, replaced these tires due to the condition described above. CTA will provide a draft reimbursement form for NHTSA's review, together with a draft owner notification letter, under separate cover in the near future.

**9. Address how CTA will assure that the entities replacing the tires are aware of the legal requirements related to recalls of tires established by 49 U.S.C. Chapter 301 and regulations thereunder:**

CTA will notify distributors, as well as all independent outlets that are authorized to replace the tires that are the subject of this recall, of their responsibilities in accordance with Section 573.6(c)(9). Distributors and outlets will be instructed to return affected tires to CTA for disposal.