



U.S. Department  
of Transportation  
**National Highway  
Traffic Safety  
Administration**

1200 New Jersey Avenue SE  
Washington, DC 20590

**OCT 28 2008**

MR. MICHAEL KANE  
VICE PRESIDENT, QUALITY ASSURANCE  
BRIDGESTONE/FIRESTONE NORTH AMERICA TIRE  
P.O. BOX 140990  
NASHVILLE TN 37214

NVS-215kjs  
08T-026

**SUBJECT: INSUFFICIENT TREAD BASE GUAGE/TREAD SEPARATION**

**DEAR MR. KANE:**

This letter serves to acknowledge Bridgestone/Firestone North America Tire's (BFNT) notification to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) of a defect for the tires listed below for which a safety recall campaign shall be conducted pursuant to 49 U.S.C. § 30119.

Please review the following information to ensure that it conforms to your records as this information is being made available to the public. If the information does not agree with your records, please contact us immediately to discuss your concerns.

**Tires/Tire Brands/Tire Sizes:**  
FIRESTONE/FR380/P235/75R15  
LEMANS/CHAMPION SE/P235/75R15

**NHTSA Campaign Number:** 08T-026      **Mfg's Report Date:** October 22, 2008

**Components:** TIRES:TREAD/BELT

**Potential Number of Units Affected:** 162,251

**Summary:**  
BRIDGESTONE/FIRESTONE NORTH AMERICA TIRE (BFNT) IS RECALLING 135,310 FIRESTONE FR380 TIRES, SIZE P235/75R15, MANUFACTURED BETWEEN JUNE 4, 2006 AND SEPTEMBER 8, 2007, AND 26,941 LEMANS CHAMPION SE TIRES, SIZE P235/75R15, MANUFACTURED BETWEEN JUNE 4, 2006 AND SEPTEMBER 2, 2006. THESE TIRES WERE PRODUCED WITH INSUFFICIENT TREAD BASE GUAGE.

**Consequence:**

CONTINUED USE OF THE SUBJECT TIRES MAY LEAD TO VIBRATION AND GROOVE CRACKING. EXTENDED USE COULD LEAD TO TREAD DISTORTION OR TREAD SEPARATION AND LOSS OF VEHICLE CONTROL.

**Remedy:**

BFNT WILL NOTIFY OWNERS AND REPLACE THE AFFECTED TIRES FREE OF CHARGE. BFNT WILL ALSO MOUNT AND BALANCE THE REPLACEMENT TIRES AT NO CHARGE OR EXPENSE TO THE OWNER. THE RECALL IS EXPECTED TO BEGIN ON OR ABOUT OCTOBER 29, 2008. OWNERS MAY CONTACT BFNT TOLL-FREE AT 1-800-465-1904 OR VISIT THEIR WEBSITE AT [WWW.FIRESTONETIRE.COM](http://WWW.FIRESTONETIRE.COM).

**Notes:**

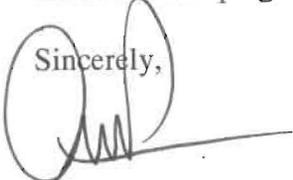
CUSTOMERS MAY CONTACT THE NATIONAL HIGHWAY TRAFFIC SAFETY ADMINISTRATION'S VEHICLE SAFETY HOTLINE AT 1-888-327-4236 (TTY: 1-800-424-9153); OR GO TO [HTTP://WWW.SAFERCAR.GOV](http://WWW.SAFERCAR.GOV).

The information in your defect report appears to satisfy the requirements of 49 CFR 573.6.

We have received BFNT's proposed owner notification letter and it meets the requirement of Part 577. Copies of all notices, bulletins, dealer notifications, and other communications that relate to this recall, including a copy of the final owner notification letter and any subsequent owner follow-up notification letter(s), are required to be submitted to this office no later than 5 days after they are originally sent (if they are sent to more than one manufacturer, distributor, dealer, or purchaser/owner).

As stated in Part 573.7, submission of the first of six consecutive quarterly status reports is required within one month after the close of the calendar quarter in which notification to purchasers occurs. Therefore, the first quarterly report will be due on or before 30 days after the close of the calendar quarter.

Your contact for this recall will be Kelly Schuler, who may be reached by phone at 202-366-5227, by email at [Kelly.Schuler@dot.gov](mailto:Kelly.Schuler@dot.gov), or through the office email at [RMD.ODI@dot.gov](mailto:RMD.ODI@dot.gov). We look forward to working with you for successful completion of this recall campaign.

Sincerely,  


George H. Person  
Chief, Recall Management Division  
Office of Defects Investigation  
Enforcement