

**BRIDGESTONE FIRESTONE NORTH AMERICAN TIRE, LLC**

535 Marriott Drive  
Nashville, TN 37214

October 22, 2008

Mr. Daniel Smith  
Associate Administrator of Enforcement  
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
West Building  
Washington, DC 20590

**Re: Notification of Defect, P235/75R15, Firestone FR380 and P235/75R15 LeMans Champion SE**

Dear Mr. Smith:

This letter is to advise you that Bridgestone Firestone North American Tire, LLC ("BFNT") intends to recall certain tires, and to provide the following information in accordance with 49 C.F.R. Section 573:

1. The importer of the subject motor vehicle equipment is BFNT. These tires were produced at the Bridgestone Firestone de Costa Rica S.A. ("BFCR") plant in San Jose, Costa Rica.
2. The tires included in this notice are:
  - Firestone brand P235/75R15 FR380, produced from DOT week 23 in 2006 through DOT week 35 in 2007.
  - LeMans P235/75R15 Champion SE tires produced from DOT week 23 in 2006 through DOT week 35 in 2006.
3. BFNT estimates that 135,310 Firestone P235/75R15 FR380 tires, and 26,941 LeMans P235/75R15 Champion SE tires have been sold in the U.S. replacement market.
4. Based on the analysis of one adjusted tire, in August of 2007, the plant was informed and a production correction was made. The possible scope was difficult to determine at the plant level, so monitoring in the field was emphasized. During 2008, additional adjusted tires were analyzed and in conjunction with engineering determinations and investigations to define the scope of the problem, a decision was made on October 15 to conduct a recall. There have been no reported incidents, hence no property damage or injury claims involving these tires.

5. During the relevant time period, the BFCR San Jose plant produced the Firestone P235/75R15 FR380 and LeMans P235/75R15 Champion SE tires with insufficient tread base gauge. The error was corrected during DOT production week 3507.
6. From October 24, 2008 through March 31, 2009, consumers can receive free replacements at any company-owned store (Firestone Complete Auto Care, ExpertTire, TiresPlus, Hibdon TiresPlus, Wheel Works, or Firestone Commercial & Farm) or through an independent authorized Firestone tire dealer.
7. Known purchasers of the affected tires will be sent a letter with instructions regarding inspection and replacement. A copy of communications to customers is attached. Mailings will begin when practical upon approval of the customer letter by the agency.
8. Under our reimbursement plan, BFNT will reimburse purchasers for warranty costs incurred prior to this notification as a result of adjustments for this condition.

If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact me.

Sincerely,



Michael D. Kane  
Vice President  
Quality Assurance

cc: Mr. George Person  
Office of Defects Investigation  
Chief, Recall Analysis Division  
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
West Building  
Washington, DC 20590