

Bridgestone Firestone North American Tire, LLC

535 Marriott Dr.
P.O. Box 140990
Nashville, Tennessee 37214

September 19, 2008

To: BFNT Commercial Dealers

Subject: Firestone FS400 315/80R22.5 Load Range L (20 ply) Recall

Bridgestone Firestone North American Tire, LLC (BFNT) is initiating a recall of 283 Firestone FS400 315/80R22.5 Load Range L (20 ply) limited production tires that did not meet the sidewall stamping requirement of the Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard (FMVSS) No. 571.119: "New Pneumatic Tires for Motor Vehicles With a GVWR of More Than 4,536 Kilograms (10,000 Pounds) and Motorcycles". The 283 tires are missing the speed restriction stamping "MAX. SPEED 88km/h (55MPH)". The *Firestone Medium & Light Truck Data Book* lists that the maximum speed of 55 MPH applies to this tire. If these tires are used at speeds above the 55 MPH maximum speed limit, there is a possibility that a tread/belt detachment may occur, leading to a loss of vehicle control. The described tire failure may create a risk of property damage, serious personal injury or death.

Authorized BFNT Commercial Dealer locations will administer the tire inspection and, if necessary, tire replacement at no charge to the customer through December 31, 2008.

I. REASON FOR THE RECALL

BFNT has determined that 283 Firestone FS 400 315/80R22.5 Load Range L (20 ply) tires produced at the Warren County, TN plant did not meet the sidewall stamping requirement of the Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard (FMVSS) No. 571.119: "New Pneumatic Tires for Motor Vehicles With a GVWR of More Than 4,536 Kilograms (10,000 Pounds) and Motorcycles". The 283 tires, which were manufactured during 24th and 25th weeks of 2008, are missing the "MAX SPEED 88 km/h (55MPH)" stamping that is required to be on both sidewalls. The missing sidewall stamping was discovered by inspection and was corrected.

<u>Description</u>	<u>Size</u>	<u>Art. No.</u>	<u>DOT Serial Numbers</u>
Firestone FS400 L.R. 'L' (20Ply)	315/80R22.5	216-126	4D4D35F 2408 4D4D35F 2508

II. SERVICE ACTION REQUIRED BY BFNT COMMERCIAL DEALERS

- 1) If you have not already done so, verify your current NEW tire inventory. If you have tires that meet the above description and match the EXACT DOT serial numbers shown above but do not have the "MAX. SPEED 88km/h (55MPH)" stamping, please return the tires to your servicing BFNT distribution center. Contact the Commercial Customer Service Dept. and request that an RGA (Return Goods Authorization) be issued.

For your assistance in identifying a tire which is subject to this campaign, we have included photographs for clarification. Photograph #1 shows the DOT serial number of the recalled tire. Photograph #2 is an example of a recalled tire that is missing the sidewall stamping on both sidewalls. The third photograph shows the correct marking: i.e. the “MAX SPEED 88km/h (55MPH)” stamping which SHOULD appear on both sidewalls of tire. **Tires with the correct marking are not part of this campaign.**

FEDERAL LAW PROHIBITS THE REUSE OR RESALE OF RECALLED TIRES, AND VIOLATORS ARE SUBJECT TO FINES OF UP TO \$100,000 PER TIRE

- 2) Please check your sales records to determine if you may have sold any of the recalled tires. If you find that you have sold the affected tires, please provide BFNT with the customer contact information so they can be added to the recall mailing list.
- 3) Customers who are identified as potential purchasers of the affected tires will be issued a letter requesting that the owner check all tires fitting the above description in order to determine whether the tires are missing the “MAX. SPEED 88 km/h (55 MPH)” stamping. If so, the customer will also be instructed to examine the tires to identify whether they have the DOT serial number designations that exactly match one of the tires subject to this campaign. If the customer is unable to determine whether the tires are part of this campaign, the customer will be instructed to check the telephone yellow pages under “Tire Dealers” for commercial truck tire locations. In addition, the customer may use the web-based Firestone commercial truck tire dealer locator www.firestonetrucktires.com or call 1-800-815-9793 for assistance in locating a Firestone commercial truck tire dealer location that will assist in examining the tire.
- 4) Customers who visit an authorized Firestone commercial truck tire dealer location in connection with this campaign must have all tires inspected in order to determine whether the DOT serial numbers are an exact match as indicated above and that the stamping is missing. Please make sure to closely check each tire.
 - a. If the DOT serial numbers do not exactly match one of the 2 shown above, the tires are not a part of this recall.
 - b. Any tires with DOT serial numbers exactly matching one of the 2 shown above which are missing the required stamping are part of this recall and must be replaced immediately.
- 5) BFNT will replace recalled tires at no charge to the customer during the period beginning September 12, 2008 through December 31, 2008.

III. PROCEDURE FOR TIRES REMOVED FROM SERVICE

- All Firestone FS 400 315/80R22.5 Load Range L (20 ply) tires removed from service under this program **must be returned to the BFNT intact.**
- Tires which are subject to this campaign will be replaced at no charge to the customer through December 31, 2008.

- The tires will be processed as no charge tire adjustments. List the word “RECALL” as the reason for adjustment on the BFNT Limited Warranty Form.
- All normal tire warranty adjustment procedures used at dealer will also apply to any tires replaced under this recall.
- The customer may have received a postage paid *Tire Recall Notice Reply Card* in the customer letter from BFNT. If the customer has that card, please complete the card and mail it for the customer.

PHOTO #1: SAMPLE DOT SERIAL NUMBER – RECALLED TIRE



PHOTO #2: SAMPLE MISSING STAMPING – RECALLED TIRE BOTH SIDEWALLS

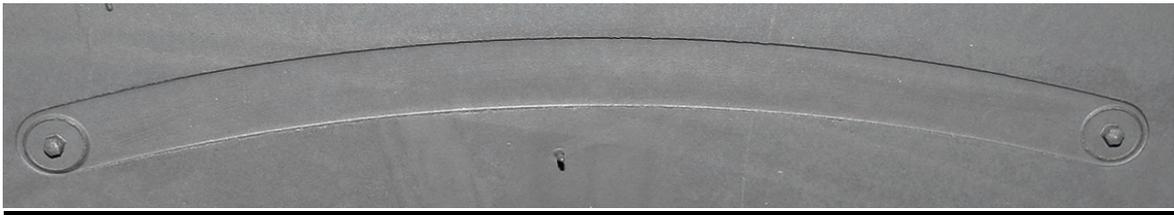
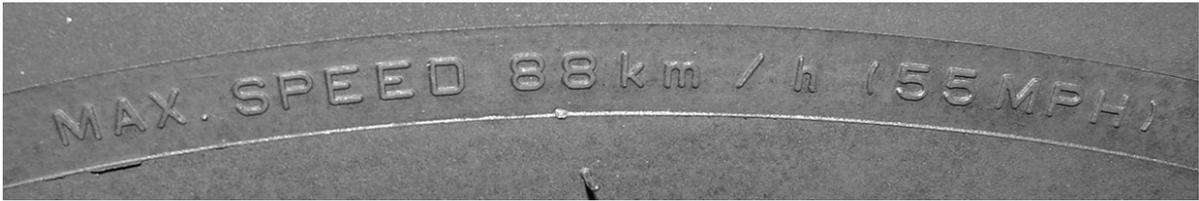


PHOTO #3: SAMPLE OF A PROPERLY STAMPED TIRE – BOTH SIDEWALLS



Thank you for your cooperation.

Very Truly Yours,


Singh Ahluwalia

President, Sales & Marketing
Bridgestone Bandag Tire Solutions