

January 9, 2005

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Ms. Kay Butler
Michelin North America
Consumer Relations Department
P. O. Box 19001
Greenville, SC 29602-9001

Re: Michelin XZA1 Load Range H 275x70R22.5 Tires
Manufactured in 2002 and 2003

Dear Ms. Butler

I received a letter from Spartan Chassis dated Jan. 4, 2005 which states that "Michelin approves of operating the tire/wheel assembly (on my coach) at a maximum 120psi as installed as a Special Consideration relative to the vocational RV/Motor home application-though there requirements and limitations to the installation. Max speed of 75MPH, and a maximum load of 13,200lbs on your front axle application."

I asked you in an E-mail dated 11/18/04 what the factor of safety was for these tires and in your E-mail to me dated 11/22/04; you stated " At 120psi, a single tire will carry 6510 per tire and 6395 in dual." You also stated in that E-mail " In order to increase the carrying capacity of the tire on the steer axle, the tire pressure must be increased."

All of the above information adds to my confusion. According to the Michelin Recreational Vehicle Tire Guide I received with my motor home, my Michelin XZA1 Load Range H 275x70R22.5 tires are rated (for RV use only) at 6385lbs at 120psi. Please send me published documentation which shows that my 2002 and 2003 Load Range H tires have been retested (for RV use only) to carry 6510lbs at 120psi and are now considered to be Load Range J and also the published documentation where these tires were retested again as a "Special Consideration" to Spartan Chassis to be able to carry 6600lbs at 120psi on the steer axle.

With the information I now have, I consider the two steer tires on my motor home **unsafe** when my coach front axle is loaded to 13,200lbs and the tires are inflated to 120psi.

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Thank you for your help. I am going to be attending the Newmar Quartzsite Rally, the Newmar International Chapter of FMCA and the FMCA International in Perry, and the Newmar International in Salem. I plan to bring up the subject of these tires and find out how many other Spartan Cassis owners have concerns about the safety of their Michelin tires. It is somewhat comforting to know that Michelin is assuming complete responsibility for the damages and possible fatal accidents that could happen when these tires are loaded to 13,200lbs at 120psi.

U. S. Department of Transportation
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