

Certified Letter:

ODI Rec'd on

04-15-2005

2005 APR 10 PM 4:55 March 28, 2005

Michelin Tire Corporation
Corporate Office
One Parkway South
P.O. Box 19001
Greenville, SC 29602-1900

10118997

Subject: Safety Issue

This memo is to notify you of repeated safety incidents that we have experienced with Michelin tires on our 2001 Winnebago Journey DL recreational vehicle. The tires in question are Michelin tires 235/80R22.5 XRV. The RV was purchased on 8/31/2001 from Plemmons RV in Rural Hall, NC. The current mileage on this vehicle is 37,435 miles.

This vehicle is configured with a single axel and a total of 6 tires. Starting on July 17, 2003, 50% of the tires have failed. From the start I have been very meticulous with both the total weight, weight distribution and specified air pressure on each tire. I am a graduate and practicing engineer and consequently very cognizant in meeting specifications and standards. The 3 remaining original tires have the following I.D.'s: (2 with DOT B6BJ BVJX3001 and one with DOT B6BJ BVJX2000

The following enumerates the safety incidents that have occurred on U.S. Interstate Highways:

On July 17, 2003 we had traveled from Greensboro, NC to Honey Brook, Pa via Highways 220, I-81 and the PA Turnpike. When we arrived at Honey Brook I noticed a "bubble" separation on the side wall of the front tire, passenger side. On July 25, 2003 we took the RV to McCarthy Tire Service in Reading, PA. and had the tire replaced. They measured the tire tread on the defective tire and it was 11/32 and the mileage was 28,520. This was the first experience with the tires and I thought this was due to road damage but that was not the case.

I am enclosing copies of tire receipts, weight scales and other documentation. All the original 6 tires were visually in very good condition with no sign of damage, dry rot, cracks or any unusual tread wear.

Sept. 04, 2004 we were traveling north on I-77 when at about 2:30 PM we experienced a blow out of the rear inside tire, drivers side. The location of the blow out was near Exit 14 at Hillsville, VA. The mileage when the tire blew out was 34,321 miles. The emergency road service replaced the tire. There was a sizeable hole on the side wall of the blown tire. As previously stated I always check the air pressure of each tire and inspect for any visible discrepancy before all trips. The technician measured the tread depth and it was about 11/32. Our speed at the time of the blowout was between 50 to 55 mph because we were pulling a hill.

WKR
RAG
4/20/05

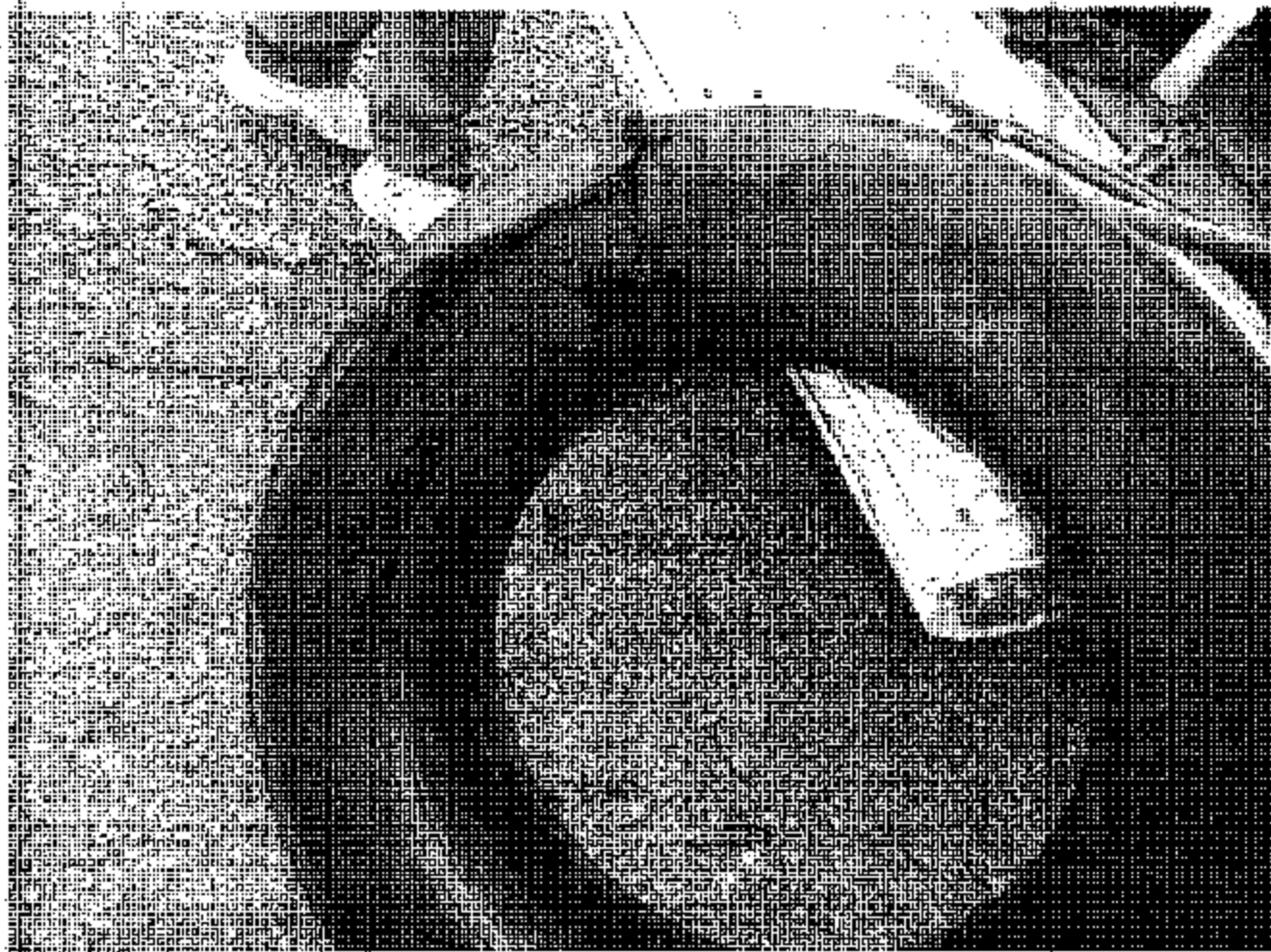
Jan. 30, 2005 we were travelling north on I-26 when at about 12:00 PM we experienced a blow out of the front tire, drivers side. The location of the blow out was near mile marker 132, just south of Columbia, SC. We were parked on the shoulder of the highway and called our emergency number. We were assisted by the SC Highway Patrol and I have included a copy of South Carolina Dept. of Public Safety, no. T-060956 public contact/warning. The tire was demolished with a gaping hole one side wall (see enclosed photo). The force of the blow out destroyed the entire side RV body panel and bent the supporting steel framework. Our emergency road service replaced the tire. The mileage at the time of the blow-out was 37,012 miles and our approximate speed was between 57 to 60 mph. When we started that morning I checked the air pressure and inspected all the tires and there was no visible sign of damage or defects. Never the less, 3 of those tires have very prematurely ruptured in spite of the correct inflation pressure and constant inspection. Whenever we are parked for a length of time we use tire covers. With a 50% failure rate in 37,435 miles there is a defect in the 6 original tires and possibly the replacement tires. Our past experience with Michelin tire has been very positive and our purpose with this memo is to make you aware of a potentially hazardous situation for us and our family. We often have our grand children with us. Put yourselves in our situation and ask: If this was my RV, would I be satisfied and willing to endanger my self and my family in this manner? We basically have an RV that we are afraid to use due to this defect. We are going on record with this memo that if any injury occurs due to this tire defect, we are holding Michelin, Winnebago and Freightliner responsible. We still have tires that are suspect and are requesting that Michelin replace these tires as soon as possible. Thank you. ☺

CC: NHTSA Headquarters
400 Seventh St, SW
Washingto, D.C. 20590

Livingston, Tx

Winnebago Industries
605 West Crystal Lake Rd.
Forest City, IA 50436

Freightliner Custom Chassis Corp
552 Hyatt St.
Gaffney, SC 29341

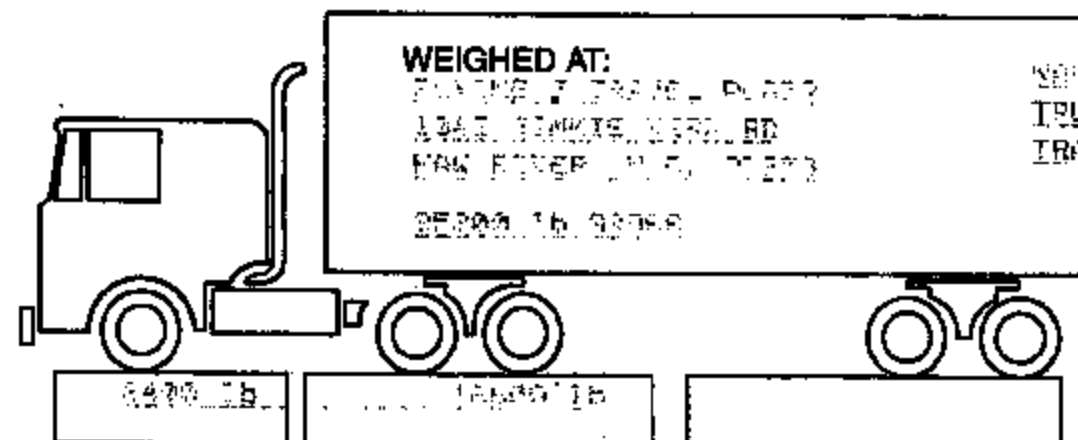


FLYING J TRAVEL PLAZA



J-SCALE-GUARANTEED WEIGHT

GEN
735.9
1721



NOE 247520
TRUCK ID 101
TRAILER ID 53002



Our Seal Means It's
"GUARANTEED"

TRUCK ID 10101

COMMODITY

8400
16200
25200
WITH JEEP

35347
8101 (1998)
J-SCALE

FLYING J TRAVEL PLAZA



J-SCALE-GUARANTEED WEIGHT

10-28-01

Weigh Fee \$6.50

	WEIGHED AT:		NAME
	FLYING J TRAVEL PLAZA		TRUCK ID 0
	1043 JIMMIE KERR RD		TRAILER ID 0
	HAW RIVER, N.C. 27258		
	24740 lb GROSS		
8160 lb	16580 lb		



Our Seal Means It's
"GUARANTEED"

TICKET NUMBER 3

8101 (7/86)

8160
16580
24740
w/ J-11

COMMODITY

XNY

WEIGHER SIGNATURE

603 141.6

**SOUTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
PUBLIC CONTACT / WARNING**

STATE LICENSED		MIDDLE NAME	
FL			
RACE	SEX	LATITUDE	
WM	M		
HIGHWAY TYPE AND NO.	COUNTY	CODE	DATE
226	CALHOUN		1-3-05
VEHICLE LICENSE NO.	VEHICLE MAKE	YEAR	TIME
	RV	01	1200
ISSUED BY	RANK	CHECK IF CMV	BADGE NO.
J. J. HAINES	LICPL		584

NATURE OF CONTACT

- | | |
|---|--|
| ☐ SPEEDING | ☐ DISREGARDING TRAFFIC SIGNAL |
| ☐ FAILURE TO DIM LIGHTS | ☐ NO RIGHT OF WAY |
| ☐ IMPROPER BACKING | ☐ DEFECTIVE EQUIPMENT |
| ☐ IMPROPER LIGHTS | ☐ IMPROPER PASSING |
| ☐ IMPROPER TURN | ☐ DRIVER'S LICENSE VIOLATION |
| ☐ DISREGARDING STOP SIGN | ☐ VEHICLE LICENSE VIOLATION |
| ☐ OTHER (SPECIFY): | |



This warning is being issued to you for a violation of the South Carolina Code of Laws. If you are unsure about the nature of the violation, feel free to ask the officer any questions in order to clarify the situation. If necessary, procure and study a copy of the South Carolina Drivers Handbook.

T- 060956

**THE ATTACHMENTS TO THIS
DOCUMENT HAVE BEEN REMOVED
TO PROTECT UNWARRANTED
INVASION OF PERSONAL PRIVACY
PURSUANT TO EXEMPTION 6 OF
THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION
ACT (FOIA), 5 U.S.C. 552(b)(6).**