

Type: Customer E-mail
From:
To: webmaster@nhtsa.dot.gov
Subject: SUV Tires

Answered
2/4/05
 10128066

From:

Comments:

On Jan. 6, 2005 I bought 4 Goodyear Fortera HI tires size P235-75R15 for my 1991 Nissan Pathfinder 4X4. They were inflated cold to 26 psi following the info on the vehicle tire placard using an accurtae gauge. After they were installed the car drifted to the right so I thought I need an alignment. I had driven less than 675 miles on the tires by the time I had it checked on Feb 3, 2005. My mechanic said that the problem was in one of the two front tires because when he switched them from side to side the car now drifted to the left. I returned to the tire dealer who examined the two front tires and discovered that one of them had severe cupping and flattening of portions of the first tread segment on the inside of the tire (the side opposite the raised white letters). He had ordered two new replacements from Goodyear and found to our amazement that one of them had the identical problem -- on a brand new tire! The dealer immediately reported the problem to his distributor by phone and I contacted Goodyear on their web site. The DOT number on the first tire is PDHC NWHR 2804 and also imprinted was GO4R. The new replacement tire had the same DOT number plus the imprint GO4L.

I believe these tires have a manufacturing or quality control problem because I think it's more than a coincidence that a replacement tire has the same defect as the tire that it's replacing. I hope you will use this info to contact Goodyear and investigate this matter. Your immediate response to this safety issue is appreciated. Incidentally, I bought these tires because they were top rated by Consumer Reports in their Nov. 2004 issue. I am also contacting Consumer Reports about the problem.

From NHTSA Web Site.

NAR
7/1/05