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NVS-200  
**NHTSA**

[Redacted] **Sausalito, CA** [Redacted]

Tel & Fax [Redacted] E-mail [Redacted] SECRETARIAT

November 16, 2005

2005 DEC -7 A 8:17

U. S. Department of Transportation  
400 7th Street, S.W.  
Washington, DC 20590

NATIONAL HIGHWAY  
TRAFFIC SAFETY ADM.

RE: Unresolved Tire Safety Issue with Audi of America

DOT:

Audi of America refuses to provide written confirmation of the tire speed rating appropriate for a 2001 Audi A4 Avant, 2.8l automobile. I wrote a letter to Audi explaining the problem on 10/24/05 [attached] and have spoken to, so called, Audi Customer Advocates on 11/14/05 and 11/16/05. Audi refuses to provide any tire information other than size, in this case 205/55 R16.

This is a road safety issue. The most critical mechanical safety factors that a customer has control over are tires and brakes. One would expect that the manufacturer would be anxious to provide as much of this critical safety information as possible; to my surprise, not so with Audi.

There is no information on tire specifications in the owner's manual at all, and only the tire size is specified on the vehicle [inside the gas filler cap door].

While tire size is important, it is only one of the several critical factors affecting tire safety and performance; the others, speed rating and load index, are also important. While no one would drive as fast as a tire's speed rating might indicate, speed rating is also an important indication of overall tire handling capability. On a performance vehicle like an Audi, this could be critical. Audi's refusal to provide this information borders on negligence. I know of no other automobile manufacturer that refuses to provide complete tire information.

While I am very surprised that Audi would not provide this information willingly, I am also surprised that DOT does not require vehicle manufacturers' to provide complete tire information. In any event, if you could use your influence with Audi and ask them to provide complete tire information to Audi owners, we will all be safer on the road.

Thank you for your help.

Sincerely yours, [Redacted Signature]

CC: Audi of America, Inc., reference # [Redacted]  
California Department of Motor Vehicles

*Maria*  
12/13/05

[REDACTED] Santa Fe, GA [REDACTED]

Tel & Fax: [REDACTED]

October 24, 2005

Customer Service  
Audi of America, Inc.  
3800 Hamilton Road  
Auburn Hills, MI 48326

RE: WAUKH6ED21A [REDACTED] [2001 Audi A4 Avant, 2.8l]

Customer Service,

Today I had a very unpleasant experience. I took my girlfriend's Audi to the Costco Tire Center in Novato for a new set of tires and had a very heated discussion with Diondre Jones, the Manager; unfortunately I was supplying most of the heat.

The problem is that both the Costco computer and the tire company manuals we used as references listed the correct tire as a "W" speed rated, 205/55 R16. As far as we could determine, none of the placards on the vehicle lists the speed rating. The only tire information on the vehicle at all is the tire size, 205/55 R16, listed on the inside of the gas filler cap cover, but no speed rating. In addition, we could not find any vehicle specific tire size or speed rating information in any of the Audi manuals or brochures that came with the vehicle. This is a major oversight on Audi's part.

As a result, the Tire Center Manager refused to install the "H" rated Michelin tires I requested, until after I became very angry.

The interesting fact is that the vehicle was delivered with "H" speed rated, 205/55 R16 Goodyear tires and the parts department at the Audi dealership in San Rafael indicated that both "H" and "W" rated tires are allowable on this vehicle. We need clarification.

Please provide to Diondre Jones [Manager, Costco Tire Center, 300 Vintage Way, Novato, CA 94945] the allowable speed ratings and tire sizes for the above listed vehicle and send me a carbon copy.

Thank you for your help.

Sincerely yours,

[REDACTED]

CC: Diondre Jones