

SEP 26 2006

The Honorable Bill Nelson
United States Senator
225 East Robinson Street, Suite 410
Orlando, FL 32801

NVS-216 mec
Ref. No: 10166942

*See
edit on
page 2*

Dear Senator Nelson:

Thank you for your correspondence dated August 3 on behalf of your constituent, [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] wrote concerning the problems he encountered with the tires installed on his model year (MY) 2003 Ford F350 truck. Your correspondence was received on August 22. Separately, Mr. Vaz has submitted to the agency two reports indicating that the tire make is General Tire.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) is the Federal agency responsible for improving safety on our Nation's highways. We are authorized to order manufacturers to recall and repair vehicles or items of motor vehicle equipment when our investigations indicate that they contain serious safety defects in their design, construction, or performance. In order for the agency to initiate an investigation, we look carefully at the body of consumer complaints and other available data to determine whether a defect may exist. We cannot act on isolated problems or resolve disputes between individual owners, dealers, or manufacturers.

We appreciate the report you provided on behalf of [REDACTED] and the previous reports [REDACTED] submitted while visiting NHTSA's Internet web site. Reports from motorists are a very important source of information for us. Each report is analyzed and entered into a database to help us determine whether an investigation into a possible safety defect is warranted.

We have recently reviewed our database in an effort to identify whether a safety defect trend exists with regard to problems associated with Continental and General tires installed on MY 2003 Ford F350 trucks. At this time, there is insufficient evidence to warrant opening a safety defect investigation on these tires. The information Mr. Vaz provided has been entered into our database. It will be considered with future reports to identify any tire safety defect trends that may require our attention.

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We sympathize with [REDACTED] concerning his request for compensation; however, this does not fall under our jurisdiction. If he has not done so, he may consider contacting his local Consumer Protection Agency, Better Business Bureau, or the Florida Office of the Attorney General regarding his request.

I hope this information is helpful. If you have any questions, please have your staff contact me or Mr. Ronald L. Medford, Senior Associate Administrator for Vehicle Safety, at (202) 366-1810.

Sincerely yours,

Original Signed By

Michael W. Harrington
Director of External Affairs

cc: Washington Office

NHTSA: NVS-210: Congressional Response

NVS-216: mec 66257

NHTSA Control No. ES06-005331

ODI Control No. 10166942

Draft: mec 8/30/06

Revised:

Final: mec 9/19/06, mec 9/21/06

cc:

NEC-110, NIA-110, NVS-010, NOA-010, I-10, I-20

NVS-200, NVS-216

Subject/Chron/Optical Disk/CRD

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