



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration**

INFORMATION Redacted PURSUANT TO THE FREEDOM OF
INFORMATION ACT (FOIA), 5 U.S.C. 552(B)(6)

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

May 6, 2016

[REDACTED]
Baltimore, MD [REDACTED]

NEF-160 rrr
Ref. No. 10807066

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your correspondence concerning the Michelin Latitude tires (size P265/60R180) which came equipped on your model year (MY) 2015 Jeep Grand Cherokee. Your correspondence was forwarded to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's (NHTSA) Office of Defects Investigation. Due to the unprecedented amount of correspondence received by our agency in 2015 we are now just getting to your letter. Please accept our apologies for this delay.

NHTSA is the Federal agency responsible for improving safety on our Nation's highways. We are authorized to order manufacturers to recall and repair motor vehicles or motor vehicle equipment when our investigations indicate that they contain safety defects in their design, construction, or performance. We also monitor the adequacy of manufacturers' recall campaigns. 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 trend may exist. We do not have authority to act on isolated problems or resolve disputes between individual owners, dealers, or manufacturers.

You indicate that the Michelin Latitude tires (size P265/60R180) on your vehicle constantly lose air pressure. In addition, you state that the tires have a bumpy ride, poor traction in wet conditions, unpredictable feel when braking, and uneven wear. Therefore, you request any information NHTSA may have regarding defects and performance problems with the Michelin Latitude tires that came on your vehicle.

Our database has revealed a recall (NHTSA Safety Recall Campaign No. 13T-006) on certain Michelin Latitude tires (size 265/6018) that may be of interest to you (enclosed). The recall addresses a problem with perforation in the tire sidewall, which results in a loss of air pressure while driving. Please contact your local Fiat Chrysler Automobiles dealer or an authorized Michelin service center for further details. Also, have your make, model, model year, vehicle identification number, and tire size available for their information. Regarding the additional information you requested, if it is still required we suggest that you review the procedure for requesting the information through the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), which is on our Web site at ww.nhtsa.gov/FOIA.

Should you encounter a safety-related problem with a motor vehicle or motor vehicle equipment in the future, we would appreciate it if you would complete an electronic Vehicle Owner's Questionnaire online at www.nhtsa.dot.gov/ivoq or call the Auto Safety Hotline at 888-327-4236. Also, a summary listing of vehicle owners' complaints, safety recalls, manufacturers' service bulletins, etc. can be obtained at www.nhtsa.dot.gov/cars/problems.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Randy Reid".

Randy Reid, Chief
Correspondence Research Division
Office of Defects Investigation
Enforcement

Enclosure

RECEIVED

By Recall Management Division at 9:20 am, Jul 12, 2013

13T-006
(4 pages)



11 July 2013

Associate Administrator for Enforcement
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
Attention: Recall Management Division NVS-215
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE.,
Washington, DC 20590

Attn : Ms. Nancy L. Lewis
NHTSA NVS-200

Re: Part 573 Defect Information Report

Pursuant to the requirements of 49 C.F.R. Part 573, Michelin North America (MNA) submits the following report related to certain tires manufactured under Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards FMVSS139 (New Pneumatic Tires for Motor Vehicles with a GVWR of 4,536 kgs (10,000 lbs) or less.

Pursuant to 49 C.F.R. § 573, MNA reports the following :

573.6(c)(1) Name of Manufacturer:

Michelin North America, Inc.

573.6(c)(2)(iii) Items Potentially Containing the Defect:

The tires described below have been identified as potentially containing a defect.

P255/70 R18 112 T Michelin Latitude Tour
DOT TIN B9YU99CX and DOT date range 1313 thru 2113.

P265/65 R18 112 T Michelin X Radial LT2
DOT TIN B9KA003X and DOT date range 0513 thru 2113.

P275/55 R20 111 T Michelin LTX M/S2 RBL
DOT TIN B99Y56EX and DOT date range 3812 thru 2113.

P275/55 R20 111 T Michelin X Radial LT2
DOT TIN B99Y001X and DOT date range 0513 thru 2113.

P265/65 R18 112 T Michelin LTX M/S2
DOT TIN B9XP001X and DOT date range 0513 thru 2113.

Michelin North America, Inc.
Industry Standards & Government Regulations
515 Michelin Road
Post Office Box 1987
Greenville, SC 29602-1987

P255/60 R19 108 S Michelin Latitude Tour
DOT TIN B9R1W3WX and DOT date range 1913 thru 2113.

P265/60 R18 109 T Michelin LTX M/S2 ORWL
DOT TIN B95E788X and DOT date range 1513 thru 2113.

573.6(c)(3) Total Number of Tires Potentially Containing the Defect:

Of the tires produced in the above date ranges in our Lexington, South Carolina plant, approximately 100,000 tires have been sold on the US market.

573.6 (c)(4) Percentage of Tires Estimated to Actually Exhibit the Defect:

Up to 2.5% of the approximately 100,000 tires (approximately 2,500 tires) described above contain the defect and are identifiable by a visual inspection. The quantities of tires containing the defect by dimension and line are as follows -

P255/70 R18 112 T Michelin Latitude Tour	Approximate quantity : 2
P265/65 R18 112 T Michelin X Radial LT2	Approximate quantity : 55
P275/55 R20 111 T Michelin LTX M/S2 RBL	Approximate quantity : 2200
P275/55 R20 111 T Michelin X Radial LT2	Approximate quantity : 130
P265/65 R18 112 T Michelin LTX M/S2	Approximate quantity : 83
P255/60 R19 108 S Michelin Latitude Tour	Approximate quantity : 20
P265/60 R18 109 T Michelin LTX M/S2 ORWL	Approximate quantity : 10

573.6(c)(5) Description of the Defect

Tires of the dimensions and lines listed above have the possibility of losing pressure upon their initial mounting and inflation or after being placed into service due to a perforation in the sidewall of the tire. Tires which make their way into service may experience a loss of inflation pressure presenting a risk to motor vehicle safety.

573.6(c)(6) Basis For Determination of the Defect:

Several instances (10) of air loss upon initial inflation were reported to Michelin by a tire retailer on 24 June, and subsequently sample tires were returned to Michelin on 28 June. Based on an analysis of the sample tires on 28 June, the defect was identified as a perforation in the sidewall. The sidewall condition was traced back to post manufacturing handling equipment which could partially or fully perforate the sidewall of the tire.

On 03 July a determination of defect requiring market action was concluded. In response, a communication of 'stop sale' for the tires listed above was issued to all dealers.

Further, MNA has received no property damage, death, or injury claims related to the subject tires. The subject tires are typically used in light truck, SUV, and crossover applications.

573.6(c)(8) Remedy Program:

MNA will initiate a voluntary safety recall of the subject tires. The customers that may have purchased tires of the specified date ranges will be contacted by first class mail beginning the week of July 22, 2013. This correspondence will explain the issue, and include specific instructions as to how to obtain replacement products, as well as procedures for collecting reimbursement for remedies made prior to the recall, where appropriate.

Owners may call Michelin Consumer Care at:

USA: 855-851-4951 (language options: English and Spanish),
Canada: 866-424-2638 (language options: English and French),
Mexico: 800-062-0868 (language options: Spanish and English).

Owners may also obtain information via the Michelin web site:

USA: www.michelinman.com/voluntarysafetyrecall
Canada (ENG): www.michelin.ca/voluntarysafetyrecall
Canada (FR): www.fr.michelin.ca/rappelvolontaire
Mexico: www.michelin.com.mx/llamadoarevisionpreventivo

All tires containing the defect will be scrapped.

573.6(c)(9) Disposition of Scrapped Recall Tires

In accordance with the provisions of 49 CFR Part 573.6(c)(9)(i-iii), MNA will make dealers aware of the requirements that become effective in connection with the disposition of all recalled tires through a Dealer Notification letter that will be submitted to the agency separately pursuant to 49 CFR Part 573.6(c)(10). The program for disposing of all scrap tires identified under this safety recall will comply with applicable state and local law regarding the disposal of tires, and to the extent possible, will be channeled into a category of positive reuse or beneficial non-vehicular reuse.

573.6(c)(10) Owner Notification

A draft of MNA's tire owner notification letter will be forthcoming.

A copy of the dealer 'stop sale' communication will be provided.

Sincerely,



John R. Emerson
Director, Industry Standards & Government Regulations
Michelin North America, Inc