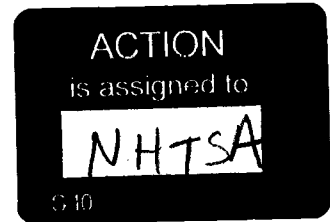


May 9, 2002
The Administrator
U.S. Department of Transportation
400 7th street SW
Washington, DC 20590

RECEIVED

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OFFICE
DEFECTS INVESTIGATION



To Whom It May Concern:
Subject: Goodyear load range tire "E" recall

565935

I have just read several articles about an agreement between NHSTA and Goodyear Tire Company to replace about 200,000 tires on 15-passenger vans equipped with light-truck load range E tires for model years 1996 to 2000. The 15-passenger van in the Ford line is made on their E350 chassis, which is a one-ton class vehicle. This same chassis is used in the RV industry to make 'Camper Van' conversions and class 'C' motor homes. These usually are heavily loaded vehicles that approach the maximum gross vehicle weight, and are high profile. My question to you is why just limit the recall to just 15-passenger vans and ambulance conversions, which by the way are similar to camper conversions.

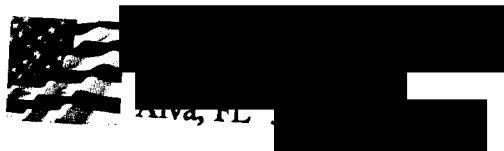
I write to you because of my personal experience with Goodyear tires on my new camper van conversion, which is on a 2000 E350 Ford van. I have driven this vehicle for 8000 miles, and from day one I have not had a smooth ride, the tires make an oscillating noise which makes you think the tread is about to separate. I took it to my local Ford dealer and they were unable to balance the tires for me, because in their opinion all four tires were too far out of tolerance. One Goodyear dealer did replace one tire for me because after about one pound of weights on the tire he gave up trying to balance it. To me these are symptoms of a serious and sinister problem with this brand of tire. It smacks of sloppy workmanship on the part of Goodyear, and they have conceded to this fact by agreeing to a limited recall of these tires. I for one am very suspect of their light truck tire products.

I write to you because I do not believe that the right decision was made to limit the recall to just the 15-passenger vans and ambulances conversions.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]
Alva, FL
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT
2002 MAY 31 A 10:18
[REDACTED]



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The Administrator
U.S. Department of Transportation
400 7th street SW
Washington, DC 20590

