



U.S. Department
of Transportation
**National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration**

ODI RESUME

Investigation: EA 05-011
 Prompted By EWR Report DI04-094
 Date Opened: 07/14/2005 Date Closed: 08/30/2006
 Principal Investigator: Tom Bowman
 Subject: Front Tire Failures

Manufacturer: Country Coach Inc
 Products: Country Coach - 1995-2000 Model Year Allure and Intrigue
 Population: 1785

Problem Description: Front tires are failing in vehicles previously campaigned to upgrade front tire load capacity

FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

	ODI	Manufacturer	Total
Complaints:	6	39	44
Crashes/Fires:	1	1	2
Injury Incidents:	0	2	2
# Injuries:	0	2	2
Fatality Incidents:	1	1	1
# Fatalities:	1	1	1
Other*:	0	0	0

*Description of Other:

Action: Close this engineering analysis. Country Coach has filed defect report 06V-262. See EA closing report for additional investigation details.

Engineer: Thomas Bowman

Date: 08/30/2006

Div. Chief: Richard Boyd

Date: 08/30/2006

Office Dir.: Kathleen C. DeMeter

Date: 08/30/2006

Summary: On June 30, 2006, Country Coach filed defect report 06V-262 stating that the "Toyo 275/70R22.5 M102Z tires are defective and could fail unexpectedly causing a loss of vehicle control."

ODI's investigation found that front tire failures have been caused by country coach's selection of tires that provided marginal load carrying capacity for their intended application. Owners were frequently unable to comply with Country Coach's campaign requirements because these requirements were ineffectively communicated and because specified tire inflation pressures were difficult for owners to achieve and maintain.

ODI also found that the rubber properties of the Toyo 275/70R22.5 M102Z degrade with time. The degradation in rubber properties does not provide any obvious indications to the vehicle owner and the tires become more susceptible to failure over time when subjected to the vehicle operating conditions described above.

GV
10/12/06