U.S. Department of Transportation

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

ODI RESUME

OFFICE OF DEFECTS INVESTIGATION
NHTSA
Authentic US Government Information
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
uses a *digital certificate* to ensure
the content has remained unchanged

Investigation: EQ 15-001
Prompted by: Third party request
Date Opened: 03/10/2015 **Date Closed:** 10/23/2015
Investigator: Robert Garris
Approver: Jennifer Timian
Subject: Hercules All Trac A/T tires

MANUFACTURER & PRODUCT INFORMATION

Manufacturer: Hercules Tire & Rubber Company
Products: Subject Tires Manufactured by Shandong Yongsheng Rubber Co.
Population: 90,000 (Estimated)

Problem Description: Subject Tires are allegedly substantially similar in design, construction and performance to other tires subject to recall in 14T-013.

ACTION / SUMMARY INFORMATION

Action: This EQ investigation is closed.

Summary:

The Closing Resume Summary is attached.

EQ15-001: Hercules All Trac Tires similar to ITG Voma's recall (14T-013)

Closing Resume Summary

October 19, 2015

BACKGROUND

On October 19, 2014, ITG Voma recalled 94,890 tires manufactured by a Chinese tire manufacturer, Shandong Yongsheng Rubber Group Co. Ltd, due to a safety defect that could lead to tread separation. The recall was assigned recall number 14T-013.

In a letter dated December 17, 2014, Michael Cowen of Cowen Law Group wrote to NHTSA with information alleging that certain Hercules All Trac A/T tires are substantially similar in design, construction, and performance as the tires that ITG Voma recalled under 14T-013. This information was reviewed and on March 10, 2015, the Recall Management Division (RMD) opened this Equipment Query (EQ) investigation in order to investigate Mr. Cowen's claims and ensure that any additional tires, which could be subject to the same safety defect as the defect ITG Voma identified in its tires, were recalled.

INFORMATION REQUEST AND RESPONSE

On March 12, 2015, RMD issued an information request (IR) letter to Hercules requesting information pertaining to the Hercules All Trac A/T tires fabricated by Shandong Yongsheng Rubber Co., Ltd. that share, or may share, the same or substantially similar specifications as the tires ITG Voma recalled. Hercules responded and supplied information over the course of multiple submissions, the last filed on June 17, 2015.

RECALL MANAGEMENT DIVISION ACTION

RMD was reviewing the information and materials Hercules submitted in response to the IR letter when, on July 8, 2015, Hercules notified NHTSA that it had made a safety decision as to the tires under investigation and decided to conduct a recall. Hercules filed the requisite defect information report. Hercules' recall was assigned the recall identification 15T-011 and spans approximately 90,000 All Trac A/T tires. RMD has reviewed the scope of the Hercules recall and is satisfied, at this point, that it is complete. Accordingly, this EQ investigation is closed.