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By Recall Management division at 12:23 pm, Dec 16, 2013



December 13, 2013

Ms. Nancy Lewis
Associate Administrator for Enforcement
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

RE: Defect Information Report

Dear Ms. Lewis:

Pursuant to Part 573 of Title 49 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Hyundai America Technical Center (HATCI), on behalf of Hyundai Motor Company (HMC), is providing information concerning a safety related defect impacting a small number of tires installed on Hyundai vehicles built by KIA Motors Manufacturing Georgia, Inc. The investigation into this defect is continuing, and HATCI will supply additional details as they become available. Specific information as required by Section 573.6 is as follows:

573.6(c)(1)

Manufacturer – KIA Motors Manufacturing Georgia, Inc. for Hyundai Motor Company

Distributor - Hyundai Motor America

573.6(c)(2)

Current information indicates the affected population is limited to 2014 model year Hyundai Santa Fe Sport vehicles produced beginning on November 5, 2013 through November 15, 2013 and equipped with P235/65R17 103T Continental Crosscontact LX tires.

Component Manufacturer Identification: Continental Tire de Mexico S.A.de C.V.
Central Camionera, Zona Industrial
San Luis Potosi, SLP
Mexico

Hyundai-Kia America Technical Center Inc.
6800 Geddes Road, Superior Township, MI 48198
TEL: 734-337-9499 FAX: 734-483-5919
www.hatci.com

HATCI is an authorized representative of both Hyundai Motor Company and Kia Motors Corporation; which are separate and distinct automotive manufacturers.

Hyundai-Kia America Technical Center, Inc.

United States contact information:

Continental Tire the Americas, LLC
1830 Macmillan Park Drive
Fort Mill, SC 29707

573.6(c)(3)

Kia Motors Manufacturing Georgia, Inc. (KMMG), with Continental providing support as requested by KMMG, is working to confirm the affected population. Hyundai will amend this report when additional information becomes available.

573.6(c)(4)

At this time, it is believed all of the vehicles identified above in 573.6(c)(2) are potentially affected.

573.6(c)(5)

Some of the P235/65R17 103T Continental Crosscontact LX tires within the affected population may have damaged ply cords inside the inner lower sidewall area of the tire on the DOT date code side of the tire. Although the damage may be induced during the mounting process, the investigation is ongoing.

Tires may experience a sidewall bulge or gradual air loss, which may lead to uneven wear, vibration, or particularly under conditions of overloading or under inflation in high ambient temperature usage, separation between the belt edges potentially leading to a tread detachment. Rapid air loss could result in loss of control of the vehicle and a crash.

Hyundai will update the Part 573 letter as appropriate.

573.6(c)(6)

On November 14th, 2013, KMMG identified seven tires on the automatic mounting line with bulges in the lower sidewall after mounting. A storage yard inspection of 2014 model year Santa Fe Sport vehicles at KMMG identified nine additional tires with bulges in the lower sidewall. These vehicles were manufactured between November 5, 2013 through November 15, 2013.

On November 15, 2013:

- KMMG discontinued use of P235/65R17 103T Continental Crosscontact LX tires on Santa Fe Sport vehicles. Additionally, KMMG suspended shipment of Santa Fe Sport vehicles equipped with P235/65R17 103T Continental Crosscontact LX tires.
- Hyundai Motor America notified its dealers to temporarily suspend retail sales of Santa Fe Sport vehicles equipped with P235/65R17 103T Continental Crosscontact LX tires. Dealers were instructed to replace any P235/65R17 103T Continental Crosscontact LX tires with alternative tires manufactured by Kumho prior to retail sale. The alternative

Hyundai-Kia America Technical Center, Inc.

Kumho brand P235/65R17 tires have not exhibited any inner lower sidewall damage or related symptoms, suggesting a compatibility issue may have occurred between the P235/65R17 103T Continental Crosscontact LX tires and the factory tire mounting equipment.

From November 15th, Continental and KMMG continue to investigate the issue to determine the root cause.

With the exception of 28 vehicles, KMMG was able to suspend shipment of all 2,646 vehicles manufactured from November 05, 2013 through November 15, 2013. Hyundai Motor America identified these remaining 28 vehicles at dealers and instructed them to replace the P235/65R17 103T Continental Crosscontact LX tires with Kumho brand tires prior to retail sale.

Hyundai has not received any dealer contacts, consumer complaints, or Field Reports regarding issues with P235/65R17 103T Continental Crosscontact LX tires on 2014 Santa Fe vehicles.

On December 12, 2013, based on its analysis, Hyundai reached the decision to initiate this defect notification, although the root cause analysis has not been completed.

573.6(c)(8)

Hyundai believes the suspect population has been contained; however, if additional information becomes available indicating a need to notify affected owners, Hyundai will provide that information in a future communication.

573.6(c)(10)

If necessary, dealer communication documents will be provided in a future communication.

573.6(c)(11)

If necessary, a draft owner notification letter will be provided in a future communication.

573.6(c)(12)

If necessary, Hyundai will provide a campaign designation in a future communication.

Sincerely,



Robert Babcock
Director, HATCI Certification and Compliance Affairs