Part 573 Safety Recall Report

16T-003

Manufacturer Name : Cooper Tire & Rubber Co.
Submission Date : MAR 11, 2016
NHTSA Recall No. : 16T-003
Manufacturer Recall No. : 4Y

Manufacturer Information :

Manufacturer Name : Cooper Tire & Rubber Co.
Address : 701 Lima Avenue
Findlay OH 45840
Company phone : 4194206040

Population :

Number of potentially involved : 577
Estimated percentage with defect : 28

Tire Information :

Tire Brand : ROADMASTER
Tire Line : RM234
Tire Size : 295/75R22.5
Descriptive Information : 295/75R22.5 Tubeless Radial Tires manufactured from August 6, 2015 - September 5, 2015.
Production Dates : AUG 06, 2015 - SEP 05, 2015

TIN (Tire Identification Number)

Plant ID	Size code	OptionalCode	Begin M Code:	End M Code
4Y	37	LWA	3115	3515

Description of Defect :

Description of the Defect : A pin-sized hole can be located in the letter "E" or between the letters "T" and "E" in the major brand stamping on the full serial side of the tire from Press 055L, mold number 59480-2.
FMVSS 1 : NR
FMVSS 2 : NR
Description of the Safety Risk : The subject tires may have a pin-sized hole in the sidewall. If left unattended, the tire could lose air and risk loss of steering control and may contribute or result in a vehicle crash.
Description of the Cause : A roller retaining pin at the tire removal arm of a cure press came in contact with the tires at the specified location and penetrated the sidewall of certain tires.
Identification of Any Warning that can Occur : Slow leaking or loss of air in the tire.

Supplier Identification :

Component Manufacturer

Name : PRINX Chengshan (Shandong) Tire Co. Ltd

Address : No. 98 Nanshan North Road
Rongcheng Shandong FOREIGN STATES 264300

Country : China

Chronology :

Cooper was alerted on February 9th, 2016 that a dealer had ROADMASTER RM234 EM tires which were not maintaining inflation pressure. Nine tires were returned to Cooper for inspection. Upon visual inspection, a pin-sized hole was detected in the sidewall that was always in a localized area, but not in the exact location on the tires. Eight of the nine tires exhibited the condition; all nine tires were from production weeks 3215 and 3315. The existence of the condition was determined by visual inspection.

On February 9, all materials for this size and brand in our possession were restricted and an inspection was initiated. Based on the inspection, it was noted that only tires from the left side of curing press 055L exhibited the condition. Cooper Tire then contacted Prinx Chenshan (Shandong) Tire Company Ltd. ("PCT") regarding the restriction.

A mechanical problem at tire removal unit / unloader at press 055L was identified by the manufacturing plant, PCT with assistance from Cooper. It was determined that a roller retaining pin at the tire removal arm came in contact with the subject tires at the specified location and penetrated the sidewall of some tires cured out of curing press 055L.

Our inventory has been completely sorted for these tires. During DOT serial weeks 3115 – 3515, there was a total net cure of 661 tires on mold 59480-2 at press 055L of which we have accounted for 84 tires. It was determined that 577 tires were distributed throughout our network. A final determination was made on March 4, 2016 that a potential defect exists as to these 577 tires. Cooper is voluntarily recalling 577 tires from weeks 3115-3515.

Description of Remedy :

Description of Remedy Program : Tires with the affected DOT serial week and year identification numbers should be shipped to one of our Regional Inspection Points. All tires returned to Cooper from the customer will be inspected for the correct press medallion and DOT identification number. All tires found to have the affected press medallion and DOT serial numbers with this condition will be scrapped and a credit will be issued to the customer.

For any tires removed from consumer vehicles, Cooper Tire will issue a credit per tire to the customer to cover mounting and balancing.

The tires located in our inventory locations that exhibit this condition will also be scrapped.

How Remedy Component Differs from Recalled Component : The tires being recalled differ from similar tires in that they were molded with a different curing press medallion (055-L) and DOT serial week and year in accordance with 49 CFR 574.5.

Identify How/When Recall Condition was Corrected in Production : The ROADMASTER RM234 EM product was cured on mold 59480-2 at press 055L for a total of five serial weeks, 3115-3515. During serial week 3515, mold 59480-2 was removed from press 055L due to maintenance on the press unrelated to the current issue. No other Cooper products were cured in press 055L for the remainder of 2015.

055L has been inspected and the roller retaining pin condition no longer exists. In addition, in accordance with PCT's regular maintenance schedule, all cure presses have been inspected.

Recall Schedule :

Description of Recall Schedule : NR

Planned Dealer Notification Date : MAR 23, 2016 - NR

Planned Owner Notification Date : NR - NR

Purchaser Information :

The following manufacturers purchased this defective/noncompliant equipment for possible use or installation in new motor vehicles or new items of motor vehicle equipment:

Name : NR
Address : NR
NR
Country : NR
Company Phone : NR

* NR - Not Reported