Part 573 Safety Recall Report 17T-018

Manufacturer Name : Zhaoqing Junhong Co., Ltd.
Submission Date : NOV 24, 2017
NHTSA Recall No. : 17T-018
Manufacturer Recall No. : NR

Manufacturer Information :

Manufacturer Name : Zhaoqing Junhong Co., Ltd.
Address : Linjiang Industry Park
High Tech Economic Development
Zone Zhaoqing 00 526238
Company phone : 758-363-7668

Population :

Number of potentially involved : 1,916
Estimated percentage with defect : 7 %

Tire Information :

Tire Brand 1 : ANTARES
Tire Line : COMFORT A5
Tire Size : LT 225/75R16 118/116S 10 PR

Descriptive Information : We found some subject tires from inventory and conducted the endurance test in our lab with the subject tire (DOT Code KBU5 1916). The test report shows that the tire fulfilled the standard in accordance with FMVSS No. 139 but failed our internal one. The next step, we checked the appearance of the tire and cut the part which indicated possible separation of sidewall (voids). We believe that it could be the failure of conglutination between the sidewall and ply cords that led to the deficiency noted by OVSC with FMVSS No. 139, S6.3.2 (a),. In order to find out more clues, we did the endurance test in our lab with two more subject tires (DOT Code KBU5 1816 and KBU5 2116), and test results were good (same results were also supported by test reports from Smithers Papra (Suzhou) Testing Co., Ltd..) Based on these tests, we consider that the defect might be caused by a manufacturing anomaly, not a design issue, and might exist in the subject tires manufactured during the period of DOT week 1916 and 2016.
We traced back the production records regarding to the period of DOT week 1916 and 2016 (from May 8th to May 21st). Records showed that on May 13th when the subject tires were being produced on the Building Machine C3, a part of the back stitcher loosened, which might lead to the weak conglutination between the ply cords and sidewall near the bead. The problem was found and repaired on the same day. But we could not find out the records regarding to the quality of the subject tires manufactured before Building Machine C3 was repaired or regarding how to specify and dispose those tires. Recorded on May 12th showed the status of back stitcher of building machine C3 was normal.
Based on the above, we conclude that the affected tire was produced on May 13th but for safety and responsibility reasons we decide to extend to DOT week 1916 to 2016, and we estimate the percentage of defect tires is small due to limited manufacturing time, but it is unable to determine.

Production Dates : MAY 08, 2016 - MAY 21, 2016

TIN (Tire Identification Number)

Plant ID	Size code	Optional Code	Begin M Code	End M Code
KB	U5	NR	1916	2016

Description of Noncompliance :

Description of the Noncompliance :	Separation of sidewall (voids) around the bead could happen during the endurance test.
FMVSS 1 :	139 - New pneumatic radial tires for light vehicles
FMVSS 2 :	NR
Description of the Safety Risk :	This may affect the performance of the tire.
Description of the Cause :	Failure of conglutination between sidewall and ply cords.
Identification of Any Warning that can Occur :	Sidewall bulge may occur.

Supplier Identification :

Component Manufacturer

Name :	ZHAOQING JUNHONG CO.,LTD.
Address :	1119 Adkins Drive Houston TEXAS 77055
Country :	United States

Chronology :

20/06/2017: Zhaoqing Junhong received the noncompliance notice by mail from NHTSA and stopped production of Antares Comfort A5 LT225/75R16 118/116S 10PR.
21/06/2017: Internal investigation to confirm existence of endurance difference, determine extent of the issue and identification of the cause of the difference was conducted on all Comfort A5 series.
05/07/2017: The internal investigation concludes that only Antares Comfort A5 LT225/75R16 118/116S 10PR with manufacture data between (DOT KBU5 1916-2016) are in doubt. Records showed that on May 13th when the subject tires were being produced on the Building Machine C3, a part of the back stitcher loosened, which might lead to the weak conglutination between the ply cords and sidewall near the bead.
04/08/2017: The endurance test reports of LT225/75R16 Antares Comfort A5 with DOT KBU5 1816 and 2116 from Smithers Papra (Suzhou) Testing Co., Ltd. showed that the tires fulfilled the standard in accordance with FMVSS No. 139, and these test results supports the internal test results. So we conclude that due to the loose of the back stitcher of building machine C3, a risk of the weak conglutination between the ply cords and sidewall near the bead might exist on the subject tires manufactured before C3 was repaired, and that defect might affect the endurance performance of the subject tires. Even though the machine was repaired on the same day, technicians did not evaluate the status of the subject tires manufactured before the machine was repaired, and

then the subject tires were released into the market. We estimate the percentage of defect tires is small due to limited manufacturing time.

Description of Remedy :

Description of Remedy Program :	The tire or tires recalled will be replaced, mounted and, if needed, balanced at no charge to customers, as long as customers have presented them for remedy within sixty (60) days after receipt of the notification letter. If Antares replacement tires are not available at the time of inspection, the affected tire(s) will be replaced by another comparable tire brand using the same size and load rating as required by the vehicle manufacturer.After expiration of the sixty (60) day period, tires will be replaced at a pro-rated value determined by remaining tread depth. Details are in the notification letters uploaded.
How Remedy Component Differs from Recalled Component :	tires marked with DOT KBU5 1916 and DOT KBU5 2016 only
Identify How/When Recall Condition was Corrected in Production :	The loose of the back stitcher of building machine C3 had been repaired in on the date the this problem was found and the day before the building machine C3 was in normal status. Details are in the response to the IR letter.

Recall Schedule :

Description of Recall Schedule :	notifications have been submitted for review.
Planned Dealer Notification Date :	NOV 29, 2017 - DEC 06, 2017
Planned Owner Notification Date :	NOV 29, 2017 - DEC 13, 2017

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