

Part 573 Safety Recall Report

18T-002

Manufacturer Name : Les Schwab

Submission Date : MAR 24, 2018

NHTSA Recall No. : 18T-002

Manufacturer Recall No. : NR



Manufacturer Information :

Manufacturer Name : Les Schwab

Address : 20900 Cooley Road
Bend OR 97701

Company phone : 5414165201

Population :

Number of potentially involved : 41,336

Estimated percentage with defect : 50 %

Tire Information :

Tire Brand 1 : Les Schwab

Tire Line : Retreaded, Steel-belted, Radial Truck Tires

Tire Size : RS

Descriptive Information : The potential for incomplete adhesion of the new tread to the existing tire casing occurs in certain tires within the provided Scope due to possible incomplete curing of HEXPOL's AZ gum rubber. However, Les Schwab only used HEXPOL's gum rubber on tires within the provided Scope. Other tires retreaded by Les Schwab outside this Scope did not use HEXPOL's gum rubber and are not affected by this potential incomplete adhesion condition.

Further, only some of the retreaded tires in this discrete Scope were manufactured using HEXPOL's AZ gum rubber. HEXPOL was a new supplier of gum rubber for Les Schwab and provided a specific quantity of the compound for a limited supply period. Existing supplies of gum rubber previously and subsequently provided to Les Schwab by Industrias de Hule, Galgo, S.A. de C.V. ("GALGO") continued to be used at the retread facilities while the limited supply of HEXPOL AZ gum rubber was also being used at the retread facilities. The HEXPOL AZ gum rubber was only used in the identified Scope, although a significant quantity of tires within this Scope would have been manufactured with GALGO gum rubber given the limited supply of HEXPOL gum rubber. The tires retreaded using GALGO gum rubber are not subject to the curing process defect. In an abundance of caution, all tires retreaded by Les Schwab during the manufacturing time period when HEXPOL's gum rubber compound was also available are included in the above Scope. However, likely less than half of the retreaded tires in this discrete Scope were manufactured using HEXPOL's AZ gum rubber.

For additional information, please see Manufacturer Comments to NHTSA Staff, below.

Production Dates : OCT 16, 2017 - DEC 15, 2017

TIN (Tire Identification Number)

Plant ID	Size code	Optional Code	Begin M Code	End M Code
RNVK	RS	NR	4417	5017
RCEE	RS	NR	4417	5017
RDNJ	RS	NR	4217	5017

Description of Defect :

Description of the Defect : The recall involves used steel-belted radial truck tires retreaded by Les Schwab using AZ gum rubber supplied by HEXPOL Rubber Compounding (“HEXPOL”) that may be inconsistent with Les Schwab’s cure package process requirements. Les Schwab has now determined HEXPOL’s gum rubber compound did not timely cure for some tires in the below specified Scope, causing potential incomplete adhesion of the tread to the tire casing in certain retreaded tires. The potentially affected retreaded tires were manufactured at Les Schwab’s three retread facilities during calendar weeks 42 through 50 of 2017 and bear the following DOTR numbers:

Prineville, Oregon facility: RDNJ4217RS – RDNJ5017RS
Spokane, Washington facility: RNVK4417RS – RNVK5017RS
Rupert, Idaho facility: RCEE4417RS – RCEE5017RS

(“Scope”). The AZ gum rubber compound supplied by HEXPOL and used to adhere the new tread to the tire casing may not fully cure during the specified minimum curing time and temperature. This was undetectable at the time of production and delivery. Improperly cured gum rubber may result in incomplete adhesion of the new tread to the tire casing in tires removed from the mold immediately after the minimum curing period. Lack of full adhesion can cause tread separation or detachment and, in the worst case, may lead to loss of vehicle control under certain circumstances. This has not been seen or reported on any of the tires at issue. Upon inspection of tires from the above Scope that have been returned from service, a piece of tread was torn away on the tire without further tread separation. There have been no complete tread detachments or loss of control and no reported property damage, accidents, injuries or deaths related to this condition.

FMVSS 1 : NR

FMVSS 2 : NR

Description of the Safety Risk : The recall involves used steel-belted radial truck tires retreaded by Les Schwab using AZ gum rubber supplied by HEXPOL Rubber Compounding (“HEXPOL”) that may be inconsistent with Les Schwab’s cure package process requirements. Les Schwab has now determined HEXPOL’s gum rubber compound did not timely cure for some tires in the below specified Scope, causing potential incomplete adhesion of the tread to the tire casing in certain retreaded tires. The potentially affected retreaded tires were manufactured at Les Schwab’s three retread facilities during calendar weeks 42 through 50 of 2017 and bear the following DOTR numbers:

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Description of the Cause : The recall involves used steel-belted radial truck tires retreaded by Les Schwab using AZ gum rubber supplied by HEXPOL Rubber Compounding (“HEXPOL”) that may be inconsistent with Les Schwab’s cure package process requirements. Les Schwab has now determined HEXPOL’s gum rubber compound did not timely cure for some tires in the below specified Scope, causing potential incomplete adhesion of the tread to the tire casing in certain retreaded tires. The potentially affected retreaded tires were manufactured at Les Schwab’s three retread facilities during calendar weeks 42 through 50 of 2017 and bear the following DOTR numbers:

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Identification of Any Warning that can Occur : The AZ gum rubber compound supplied by HEXPOL and used to adhere the new tread to the tire casing may not fully cure during the specified minimum curing time and temperature. This was undetectable at the time of production

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Supplier Identification :**Component Manufacturer**

Name : HEXPOL Rubber Compounding

Address : NR
NR

Country : United States

Chronology :

NR

Description of Remedy :

Description of Remedy Program : NR

How Remedy Component Differs NR
from Recalled Component :

Identify How/When Recall Condition NR
was Corrected in Production :

Recall Schedule :

Description of Recall Schedule : Les Schwab first notified Les Schwab dealers on March 9, 2018, to hold inventory and to not distribute the Scope of potentially affected retreaded tires because a recall would be forthcoming. Les Schwab has continued to communicate with dealers to clarify the Scope as the investigation continues. The official and complete notice to Les Schwab dealers in compliance with 49 CFR 577.13 is expected to be sent next

week. Les Schwab will also begin contacting customers informally before the formal owner recall notice is submitted to NHTSA for approval and sent to customers. Les Schwab will supplement this report pursuant to 49 CFR 573.6(b).

Planned Dealer Notification Date : NR - 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