Part 573 Safety Recall Report 18T-002

Manufacturer Name : Les Schwab
Submission Date : MAY 04, 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 : 30 %

Tire Information :

Tire Brand 1 : Les Schwab
Tire Line : Retreaded, Steel-belted, Radial Truck Tires
Tire Size : RS
Descriptive Information : 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. 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: RCEE4217RS – RCEE5017RS

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	4217	5017
RDNJ	RS	NR	4217	5017

Description of Defect :

Description of the Defect :	Les Schwab has now determined HEXPOL's gum rubber compound did not timely cure for some retreaded tires in the above specified scope, causing potential incomplete adhesion of the tread to the tire casing in certain retreaded tires. Les Schwab only used HEXPOL's gum rubber on retreaded tires within the provided scope. Other tires retreaded by Les Schwab outside the scope did not use HEXPOL's gum rubber and are not affected by this potential incomplete adhesion condition. Also, some percentage of the tires that used HEXPOL gum rubber may have cured beyond the specified ordinary cure package process and fully cured. 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, less than half of the retreaded tires in this discrete scope were manufactured using HEXPOL's AZ gum rubber.
FMVSS 1 :	NR
FMVSS 2 :	NR
Description of the Safety Risk :	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 ordinary cure package process. 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 run through the ordinary cure package process. 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.
Description of the Cause :	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 ordinary cure package process. 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 run through the ordinary cure package process.
Identification of Any Warning that can Occur :	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.

Supplier Identification :

Component Manufacturer

Name :	HEXPOL Rubber Compounding
Address :	NR
	NR
Country :	United States

Chronology :

Submitted separately.

Description of Remedy :

Description of Remedy Program :	Les Schwab will replace all recalled retreaded tires.
How Remedy Component Differs from Recalled Component :	New retreaded tires will not use HEXPOL gum rubber as the vulcanizing compound.
Identify How/When Recall Condition was Corrected in Production :	NR

Recall Schedule :

Description of Recall Schedule :	Les Schwab first notified Les Schwab dealers on March 9, 2018, to hold inventory and not distribute potentially affected retreaded tires because a recall would be forthcoming. Les Schwab has continued to communicate with dealers to clarify the scope of affected tires as the investigation continues. From March 27-30, 2018, Les Schwab sent letters to all customers who potentially purchased affected retreaded tires notifying customers of the upcoming recall and instructing them to immediately remove from service/inventory and return retreaded tires in the identified scope. Les Schwab issued the official owner Recall Notice via First Class Mail on April 27, 2018.
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