Part 573 Safety Recall Report 20T-021

Manufacturer Name : Bridgestone Americas Tire Operations,LLC
Submission Date : NOV 25, 2020
NHTSA Recall No. : 20T-021
Manufacturer Recall No. : NR

Manufacturer Information :

Manufacturer Name : Bridgestone Americas Tire Operations, LLC
Address : 200 4th Avenue South
Nashville TN 37201
Company phone : 1-800-847-3272

Population :

Number of potentially involved : 1,827
Estimated percentage with defect : 54 %

Tire Information :

Tire Brand 1 : Firestone
Tire Line : Destination LE3
Tire Size : 255/60R19
Descriptive Information : The subject tire is a highway all-season passenger tire. The subject tires may not comply with the performance requirements in S6 of Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard No. 139. The subject tires were manufactured during a specific time period and are marked with the press identification number E07L. Bridgestone Americas Tire Operations, LLC ("BATO") is not aware of any injuries related to this tire.
Production Dates : JUN 14, 2020 - JUL 18, 2020

TIN (Tire Identification Number)

Plant ID	Size code	Optional Code	Begin M Code	End M Code
1W2	K0	LE31	2420	2820

Tire Brand 2 :	Bridgestone
Tire Line :	Ecopia H/L 422 Plus
Tire Size :	P255/60R19
Descriptive Information :	The subject tire is a touring all-season passenger tire for crossover/light truck/ sport utility vehicles. The subject tires may not comply with the performance requirements in S6 of Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard No. 139. The subject tires were manufactured during a specific time period and are marked with the press identification number E07L. BATO is not aware of any injuries related to this tire.
Production Dates :	JUL 12, 2020 - AUG 08, 2020

TIN (Tire Identification Number)

Plant ID	Size code	Optional Code	Begin M Code	End M Code
0B	0M	EC1	2820	3120

Description of Noncompliance :

Description of the Noncompliance :	The subject tires may have been manufactured with a small pinhole in the upper sidewall of the DOT serial intended outboard side of the tire. The tires may not comply with the performance requirements in S6 of Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard No. 139. Affected tires with a pinhole penetrating the tire inner liner may slowly leak air.
FMVSS 1 :	139 - New pneumatic radial tires for light vehicles
FMVSS 2 :	NR
Description of the Safety Risk :	The tires may not meet the performance requirements in S6 of Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard No. 139. Affected tires containing a pinhole penetrating the tire inner liner may slowly leak air. If the slow air loss is undetected or ignored, the continued loss of air may increase the risk of a vehicle crash or personal injury.
Description of the Cause :	A broken metal tire detector switch caused additional contact with tire sidewall.
Identification of Any Warning that can Occur :	Vehicles equipped with a Tire Pressure Monitoring System (TPMS) may detect loss of tire air pressure. The pinhole in affected tires is visible in the upper sidewall tire area.

Involved Components :

Component Name :	NR
Component Description :	NR
Component Part Number :	NR

Supplier Identification :

Component Manufacturer

Name :	NR
Address :	NR
	NR
Country :	NR

Chronology :

September 14, 2020: Wilson plant personnel was notified of four Firestone Destination LE3 (size 255/60R19) returned tires with a small pinhole in the upper sidewall area. BATO implemented a plant and distribution center inventory freeze of all Firestone Destination LE3 (size 255/60R19) tires.

September 15-October 2, 2020: The four tires were shipped back to the Wilson plant for further analysis. Plant personnel commenced investigation of all tires and presses in cure room to check for tires with similar condition. A broken metal tire detector switch was found on press E07L. All metal tire detector switches in the Wilson plant were replaced with nylon tire detect switches. Personnel sent alerts to check for broken metal tire detector switches at other plants. Quality and technical team performed analysis on the returned tires to study the depth of the pinhole. One tire returned from the field was confirmed to exhibit a slow air leak after mounting. Tires contained from distribution centers were isolated and returned to the plant for further investigation.

October 2 – November 18, 2020: Technical analysis of returned tires continued, including tire cut section analysis to further study pinhole depth. BATO implemented plant and distribution center inventory freeze of common green Bridgestone Ecopia H/L 422 Plus (size P255/60R19) tires. Visual inspection of these tires revealed small dent or light surface abrasions on the upper sidewall.

November 18, 2020: The technical investigation concluded, and it was determined that the subject tires may not comply with the performance requirements of S6 of Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard No. 139.

Description of Remedy :

Description of Remedy Program :	Since BATO can identify tires by DOT week and press identification number, BATO will limit the replacement of subject tires by DOT week and press identification number. Bridgestone will replace the tires with a comparable Bridgestone or Firestone brand or other suitable replacement at no charge to affected customers. BATO will offer to reimburse the replacement cost for any customer who, prior to this campaign, replaced the subject tires due to the condition described above.
How Remedy Component Differs from Recalled Component :	The replacement tires were produced outside of the affected DOT production weeks and press identification number. The replacement tires will meet all requirements of 49 CFR 571.139 and will not contain the subject condition.
Identify How/When Recall Condition was Corrected in Production :	Immediate steps were taken to inspect the press and confirm no other broken tire detector switches on other presses within the plant. On September 16, 2020, all metal tire detector switches were replaced with nylon tire detector switches. On September 24, 2020, plant personnel added documented inspection checks of the tire detector switch for damage during every mold change, after any post-cure inflation alarm and as a daily checkpoint.

Recall Schedule :

Description of Recall Schedule :	All known customers, distributors and dealers will receive notification of the recall, instructions on how to identify the subject tires, information regarding the removal of the subject tires from service, and instructions on the return and disposal of the subject tires.
Planned Dealer Notification Date :	DEC 02, 2020 - DEC 02, 2020
Planned Owner Notification Date :	DEC 18, 2020 - DEC 18, 2020

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