

Part 573 Safety Recall Report

21T-002

Manufacturer Name : Cooper Tire & Rubber Co.

Submission Date : MAY 12, 2021

NHTSA Recall No. : 21T-002

Manufacturer Recall No. : 178



Manufacturer Information :

Manufacturer Name : Cooper Tire & Rubber Co.

Address : 701 Lima Avenue

Findlay OH 45840

Company phone : 4194206040

Population :

Number of potentially involved : 430,298

Estimated percentage with defect : 100 %

Tire Information :

Tire Brand 1 : Numerous

Tire Line : Numerous

Tire Size : 275/65R18 and 275/55R20

Descriptive Information : The affected population is certain standard load radial tubeless P-metric light truck tires produced by the manufacturer from February 1, 2018 through December 1, 2019 which are subject to sidewall bulges and potential loss of inflation pressure.

Production Dates : FEB 01, 2018 - DEC 01, 2019

TIN (Tire Identification Number)

Plant ID	Size code	Optional Code	Begin M Code	End M Code
UT	YJ	NR	0518	4719
UT	Y1	NR	0518	4719

Description of Defect :

Description of the Defect : The subject tires may develop bulges or separations in the sidewall area of the tire. The subject tires were manufactured between February 1, 2018 and December 1, 2019. The sidewall bulges result from either production variations which could result in excess thickness of the bead filler, or a stacked ply ending condition due to ply width specifications. Both issues can result in trapped air voids in the sidewall during manufacturing and can cause sidewall bulges in-use under certain use conditions. Both were eliminated through improvements to tire production processes or tire ply width specifications on or before December 1, 2019.

FMVSS 1 : NR

FMVSS 2 : NR

Description of the Safety Risk : The condition may cause bulges in the sidewall which could lead to a sidewall separation and, if undetected, loss of inflation pressure and potential tire

Description of the Cause :	failure. Less than 0.2% of subject tires have been returned with sidewall bulges.
Identification of Any Warning that can Occur :	The sidewall bulges result from either production variations which could result in excess thickness of the bead filler, or a stacked ply ending condition due to ply width specifications. Both issues can result in trapped air voids in the sidewall during manufacturing and can cause sidewall bulges in-use under certain use conditions. Some affected tires may have a visual anomaly on the white sidewall of the tire. In-service conditions may include ride disturbance that may be felt in vehicle steering or ride.

Involved Components :

Component Name : NR

Component Description : NR

Component Part Number : NR

Supplier Identification :

Component Manufacturer

Name : Cooper Tire & Rubber Company

Address : 3500 Washington Road
Texarkana Arkansas 71854

Country : United States

Chronology :

The review that led to this recall was initiated in response to a customer complaint of a sidewall bulge developing on the white sidewall on October 19, 2019, as well as conditions observed in tires cut as part of the quality surveillance process during the week of November 12, 2019. Cooper Tire initiated a review and through testing determined the tires were built on a uni-stage machine and included design features that under certain circumstances could lead to sidewall bulges developing in the white sidewall of the tire. The issue was eliminated through improvements to the tire production processes or tire ply width specifications on or before December 1, 2019. A monitoring of the return rates for these tires over time revealed rates trending above Cooper Tire's overall return rates for this condition. Cooper Tire reviewed all FMVSS testing and the products met government standards. On February 12, 2021, the Compliance Committee determined that a potential safety condition exists in the subject tires. Cooper Tire is voluntarily recalling 430,298 of these tires. There have been no property damage, death or injury claims associated with any of these tires related to this issue.

Description of Remedy :

Description of Remedy Program : Cooper Tire & Rubber Company (Cooper Tire) will initiate a voluntary safety recall of the subject tires. Cooper Tire will contact registered owners that purchased tires of the specified date range by registered mail. Customer correspondence will explain the issue, and include instructions on how to obtain replacement tires, as well as instructions for collecting reimbursement for remedies made prior to recall. The tires with affected identification numbers should be returned to one of Cooper Tire & Rubber Company's Regional Inspection Points, where they will be inspected for the affected DOT tire identification numbers. All tires found to have an affected DOT identification number will be replaced and will be scrapped according to applicable law. Consumers who have had their tires replaced before this recall may be eligible to receive reimbursement for the cost of obtaining a pre-notification remedy of the problem associated with this recall.

In accordance with the provisions of 49 C.F.R. § 573.6(c) (9) (i), Cooper Tire & Rubber Company will make dealers aware of the legal requirements associated with the prohibition against the sale of recalled tires through a Dealer Notification Letter that will be submitted to the agency separately pursuant to 49 C.F.R. § 573.6(c) (10). The program for disposing of all recalled tires returned to Cooper Tire & Rubber Company will comply with applicable state and local laws and regulations regarding the disposal of tires, and to the extent possible, tires will be channeled into a category of positive reuse or another alternative beneficial non-vehicular reuse, instead of being disposed of in landfills.

How Remedy Component Differs from Recalled Component : The remedy components will be equivalent tires built with the new process and specifications.

Identify How/When Recall Condition was Corrected in Production : The issue was resolved when the design and production changes went into effect in November of 2019.

Recall Schedule :

Description of Recall Schedule : The Dealer notification letters will be mailed between February 25, 2021 and March 19, 2021. The Tire owner notification letters will be mailed as soon as NHTSA approval is received, but in no case later than 60 days from February 19, 2021

Planned Dealer Notification Date : FEB 25, 2021 - MAR 19, 2021

Planned Owner Notification Date : MAR 25, 2021 - APR 08, 2021

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