

Part 573 Safety Recall Report

22T-002

Manufacturer Name : Bridgestone Americas Tire Operations**Submission Date :** FEB 01, 2022**NHTSA Recall No. :** 22T-002**Manufacturer Recall No. :** NR**Manufacturer Information :**

Manufacturer Name : Bridgestone Americas Tire Operations

Address : 200 4th Avenue South

Nashville TN 37201

Company phone : 1-800-847-3272

Population :

Number of potentially involved : 10,380

Estimated percentage with defect : 5 %

Tire Information :

Tire Brand 1 : Firestone

Tire Line : Transforce HT

Tire Size : LT275/70R18

Descriptive Information : The subject tire is a highway all-season tire intended for use on light trucks and commercial vehicles. These tires were manufactured by Bridgestone Canada Inc. and imported by Bridgestone Americas Tire Operations, LLC (BATO). BATO supplied the tires to Stellantis as original equipment for installation on 2021-2022 RAM 2500 and RAM 3500 vehicles. BATO also supplied these tires to retailers for sale in the replacement market. Affected tires were produced at a single plant from May 2, 2021 through May 8, 2021 with an incorrect inner liner rubber compound that may result in increased air permeability and/or increased cracking over time. Affected tires can be differentiated from non-affected tires by the unique combination of brand, tire line, size, and DOT code.

Production Dates : MAY 02, 2021 - MAY 08, 2021

TIN (Tire Identification Number)

Plant ID	Size code	Optional Code	Begin M Code	End M Code
VN	15	TH7	1821	1821

Tire Brand 2 : Firestone

Tire Line : Transforce AT

Tire Size : LT275/70R18

Descriptive Information : The subject tire is all-terrain tire intended for use on light trucks and commercial vehicles. These tires were manufactured by Bridgestone Canada Inc. and imported by Bridgestone Americas Tire Operations, LLC (BATO). BATO supplied the tires to Stellantis as original equipment for installation on 2021-2022 RAM 2500 and RAM 3500 vehicles. BATO also supplied these tires to retailers for sale in the replacement market. Affected tires were produced at a single plant from May 2, 2021 through May 8, 2021 with an incorrect inner liner rubber compound that may result in increased air permeability and/or increased cracking over time. Affected tires can be differentiated from non-affected tires by the unique combination of brand, tire line, size, and DOT code.

Production Dates : MAY 02, 2021 - MAY 08, 2021

TIN (Tire Identification Number)

Plant ID	Size code	Optional Code	Begin M Code	End M Code
VN	15	TR9	1821	1821

Description of Defect :

Description of the Defect : Subject tires were manufactured with an incorrect inner liner compound. This may result in increased air permeability and/or inner liner cracking. Increased permeability and/or cracking could allow air and moisture to migrate through the inner liner, into the tire's carcass, and eventually to the belt edges. This could lead to belt edge separations later in the tires' service life.

FMVSS 1 : NR

FMVSS 2 : NR

Description of the Safety Risk : If this condition remains undetected, belt edge separations could progress to belt detachments, potentially leading to loss of vehicle control and an increased risk of a crash.

Description of the Cause : Incorrect rubber compound was used to manufacture the inner liner.

Identification of Any Warning that can Occur : Vehicles equipped with a Tire Pressure Monitoring System (TPMS) may detect and notify drivers of a loss of tire air pressure at higher than normal rates. Tires with belt edge separations could exhibit noise, vibration, handling disturbance, and/or irregular wear on the tread near the separation.

Involved Components :

Component Name : N/A

Component Description : N/A

Component Part Number : N/A

Supplier Identification :

Component Manufacturer

Name : Bridgestone Canada Inc.

Address : 5770 Hurontario St., Suite 40
Mississauga Foreign States L5R 3G5

Country : Canada

Chronology :

July 1, 2021: Bridgestone's Joliette, Quebec plant identifies a potential misidentification and mixing issue involving certain compounds mixed in early May. An inventory freeze is initiated to allow lot tracing of tires made with the affected compounds.

July 13, 2021 – September 13, 2021: Incorrect inner liner compound is recreated, and tests on the recreated compound are conducted by Bridgestone's materials testing lab.

September 9, 2021 – December 6, 2021: Extended indoor testing is conducted on assembled and aged tires to determine effect of the incorrect compound on inner liner air permeability.

January 10, 2022 – January 19, 2022: Additional endurance testing is performed on affected tires. All tested tires passed the endurance test.

January 24, 2022: Bridgestone's Quality Committee (QC) met and reviewed the results of the materials testing and assembled tire testing. The QC determined that the incorrect inner liner compound could lead to increased permeability and cracking which could manifest as belt edge separations later in the affected tires' service life. This could lead to belt detachments and potential safety issues with the affected tires. The QC recommended the voluntary recall of affected tires.

January 25, 2022: Bridgestone senior executive approved the QC's recommendation to voluntarily recall affected tires.

There have been no reports of accidents, injuries, or consumer complaints related to this condition.

Description of Remedy :

Description of Remedy Program : Bridgestone will provide instructions to owners allowing them to determine whether they have one of the affected tires. Owners also will be given the opportunity to take their vehicle to a Bridgestone/Firestone retailer for inspection to determine whether they have an affected tire. Bridgestone will replace affected tires with a comparable Bridgestone or Firestone brand tire or other suitable replacement at no charge to affected customers. All subject tires remain under the manufacturer's warranty. Therefore, pursuant to 49 CFR 577.11(e), Bridgestone requests an exemption from the reimbursement plan requirements.

How Remedy Component Differs from Recalled Component : The replacement tires were not manufactured with the affected inner liner compound. Replacement tires will have a unique DOT code and will not contain the subject condition.

Identify How/When Recall Condition was Corrected in Production : The issue resolved when the improper rubber compound material was no longer available for use. Bridgestone has determined that use of the improper compound was limited and that the affected skids were consumed within the one impacted week of production.

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 : MAR 03, 2022 - MAR 03, 2022

Planned Owner Notification Date : APR 01, 2022 - APR 01, 2022

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 : Stellantis (f/k/a FCA US, LLC)

Address : 800 Chrysler Dr.
Auburn Hills MI 48325

Country : US

Company Phone : 8008531403

* NR - Not Reported