



Bridgestone Americas Tire Operations, LLC
200 4th Avenue South
Nashville, TN USA 37201

March 21, 2022

NHTSA ID: 22T-002

IMPORTANT SAFETY RECALL

Dear Bridgestone/Firestone Authorized Dealer:

This notice is sent to you in accordance with the requirements of the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act.

Bridgestone Americas Tire Operations, LLC (“BATO”) has decided that certain Firestone Transforce HT and Firestone Transforce AT tires in size LT275/70R18 were manufactured with an incorrect inner liner, and this could pose a safety risk. BATO has initiated a voluntary safety recall of these tires. Tires subject to this recall were sold as original equipment in the United States, Canada, and Mexico. Additionally, tires subject to this recall were also sold in the replacement market in the U.S. and Canada.

The specific tires subject to the recall are listed below:

- Firestone Transforce HT^a in size LT275/70R18 manufactured between May 2, 2021 - May 8, 2021, and marked with the Tire Identification Number (TIN) “DOT VN15TH71821”
- Firestone Transforce AT^b in size LT275/70R18 manufactured between May 2, 2021 - May 8, 2021, and marked with the TIN “DOT VN15TR91821”

You are receiving this letter because BATO’s records indicate you have received tires that may be the subject of this safety recall. Further, BATO is required to advise you of certain tire dealer obligations, which are detailed on pages 2 through 4 of this notice.

I. REASON FOR THE RECALL

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. 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.

^{a, b} Please note that this recall only applies to the Transforce HT and Transforce AT tires. **It does not apply to the Transforce HT2 and Transforce AT2 tire lines.**

II. TIRE REPLACEMENT PROGRAM

Consistent with the company’s longstanding commitment to safety, customer satisfaction and service, owners of any affected tires that match the article number, size, tire line, Department of Transportation (“DOT”) tire identification number (“TIN”), and production period provided below are urged to contact a Bridgestone dealer to arrange verification and replacement at no charge through October 1, 2022.

ARTICLE	TIRE SIZE	TIRE LINE	DOT TIN			DOT Week/Year	
						START	END
2250109 250109	LT275/70R18	Transforce HT	VN	15	TH7	1821	1821
2250381 250381	LT275/70R18	Transforce AT	VN	15	TR9	1821	1821

Any tire that is the subject of this recall will be replaced with a comparable Bridgestone or Firestone tire. Replacement tires are available as of the date of this letter. In the event that a Bridgestone brand or Firestone brand tire is not currently available, a suitable competitive product may be used as a replacement tire.

III. ACTIONS REQUIRED BY DEALERS

As a result of this safety recall and federal law, you are required to take the following actions:

1) Returning Inventory (New/Never Mounted) Recalled Tires.

Examine your tire inventory. Any tires that meet the above description are subject to this recall and cannot be sold. To determine if you have received tires that are included in this recall, please check the DOT TIN found on the sidewall of the tire as explained in Appendix A.

If you have tires that meet the above description, immediately stop the sale. Immediately count your inventory of affected tires and record specific DOT TINs. Provide this information to BATO’s Consumer Customer Service Department at the following phone numbers to issue a Return Goods Authorization (RGA) and schedule the return:

U.S. Retail	1(855) 605-7324 or 1(800) 668-0345
U.S. Wholesale	1(800) 668-0345

Promptly return all recalled tires from your inventory to BATO as per company directions. You will be compensated for all recalled (new) tires that you return from inventory. All tires removed from inventory under this recall campaign must be rendered permanently unserviceable. To render the tire unserviceable, please utilize one of the following three options:

Option 1: Drill a 1” nominal (plus or minus ¼” tolerance) hole through the sidewall using the 1” hole saw. Rotate the recalled tire approximately 180 degrees and drill a second hole through the sidewall. Drilling additional holes beyond the two specified is not necessary. Drilling holes in the other sidewall is not necessary.

Option 2: Cut through body cords in the sidewall area of the tire. The cut shall be a minimum of 6-inches long. Making more than one continuous 6” minimum length cut or cutting more than one sidewall is not necessary.

Option 3: Use a “Bead Notching” machine to permanently remove a section of the bead from the tire. It is not necessary to remove more than one section of bead or to remove a section of bead from more than one side of the tire.

Please do not alter the DOT TIN in any way as we will check it to validate that the returned tire meets the recall criteria.

2) Provide BATO the List of Owners of Recalled Tires

Please check your sales records to determine if you have sold any of the tires listed in the table above, which are subject to this recall. If you find that you have sold any of the tires covered under this recall, please send the following information for each customer to BATO so that the customer can be added to the voluntary safety recall mailing list:

Customer Name:	
Address (street, city, state, zip code):	
Telephone:	
Date of Sale/Mounting:	
Quantity Sold/Mounted:	

Please send the customer information by:

Email: Cust-Info@bfusa.com (Preferred Method)

Subject Line should read: “2022 Transforce HT/AT Safety Recall”

or Mail:

Bridgestone Americas Tire Operations, LLC
 2022 Transforce HT/AT Safety Recall
 Attention: Mitch Kritzell (c/o Quality Assurance)
 200 4th Avenue South
 Nashville, TN 37201 USA

Customers who are identified as potential purchasers of the affected tires will be issued a letter requesting that the owner check their tires to determine if they are subject to the voluntary safety recall. If the customer is unable to determine whether the tires are part of this recall, the customer will be instructed to contact an authorized Bridgestone Firestone dealer or call BATO Technical Service at 1-800-847-3272.

3) **Replacement of Mounted Recalled Tires**

Customers who visit an authorized Bridgestone/Firestone dealer in connection with this recall must have all tires (including the spare tire on certain^c vehicles) inspected in order to determine whether the DOT TIN is an exact match as indicated above. Please make sure to check each tire closely. If the DOT TIN does not exactly match the description above, the tire is not part of the recall.

Any tire with the DOT TIN described above is part of this recall and must be replaced immediately without charge (including mounting and balancing) to the customer. Use the normal Bridgestone/Firestone tire warranty adjustment procedures to replace tires under this voluntary safety recall. The tires will be processed as a no charge tire adjustment. Select “OTHER-RECALL” option on the ENTIRENET warranty adjustment screen as the reason for removal. Retailers who provide services to remove and replace the voluntary safety recall tires will be reimbursed at published Standard Service and Labor rates in effect at the time of replacement. Please do NOT alter the DOT TIN in any way as we will check it to validate that the returned tire meets the recall criteria.

Dealers must secure the recalled tires. All tires removed from service under this recall must be rendered permanently unserviceable. To render the tire unserviceable, please utilize one of the following three options:

Option 1: Drill a 1” nominal (plus or minus ¼” tolerance) hole through the sidewall using the 1” hole saw. Rotate the recalled tire approximately 180 degrees and drill a second hole through the sidewall. Drilling additional holes beyond the two specified is not necessary. Drilling holes in the other sidewall is not necessary.

Option 2: Cut through body cords in the sidewall area of the tire. The cut shall be a minimum of 6 inches long. Making more than one continuous 6” minimum length cut or cutting more than one sidewall is not necessary.

Option 3: Use a “Bead Notching” machine to permanently remove a section of the bead from the tire. It is not necessary to remove more than one section of bead or to remove a section of bead from more than one side of the tire.

If you have any questions, please contact BATO Technical Service at 1-800-847-3272.

^c Please note that the recalled tires were installed as original equipment on 2021-2022 RAM 2500 and 3500 trucks – including the full-sized spare. If a customer brings one of these vehicles to your location, **you must check all four ground position tires and the full-sized spare.**

4) **Disposition of Safety Recall Tires**

BATO is required to advise you of the following information:

**IT IS A VIOLATION OF FEDERAL LAW FOR A DEALER TO
SELL, LEASE, REUSE, OR RESELL A RECALLED TIRE.**

If a dealer knowingly sells or leases new or used recalled tires, the sale must be reported to the Associate Administrator for Safety Assurance, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E. Washington, DC 20590 or call the toll-free Auto Safety Hotline at 1-888-327-4236 (TTY 1-800-424-9153); or go to www.nhtsa.gov within five working days of such a release to report the following information:

- 1) A statement that a report is being submitted pursuant to 49 CFR 573.10(a);
- 2) The name, address, and phone number of the person who purchased or leased the tire;
- 3) The name of the manufacturer of the tire;
- 4) The tire's brand name, model name, and size;
- 5) The tire DOT identification number and press identification number;
- 6) The date of the sale or lease; and
- 7) The name, address, and telephone number of the seller or lessor.

These notifications and instructions must be communicated to all employees of this dealership who are involved in the inspection and removal of recalled tires.

IV. BRIDGESTONE'S COMMITMENT

We are committed to safety, customer satisfaction, and service. If you have any additional questions, please contact BATO Technical Service at 1-800-847-3272 for further assistance.

We regret the inconvenience that this recall may cause you, but we are certain you will understand our commitment to the safety of your customers.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Bridgestone Americas Tire Operations, LLC

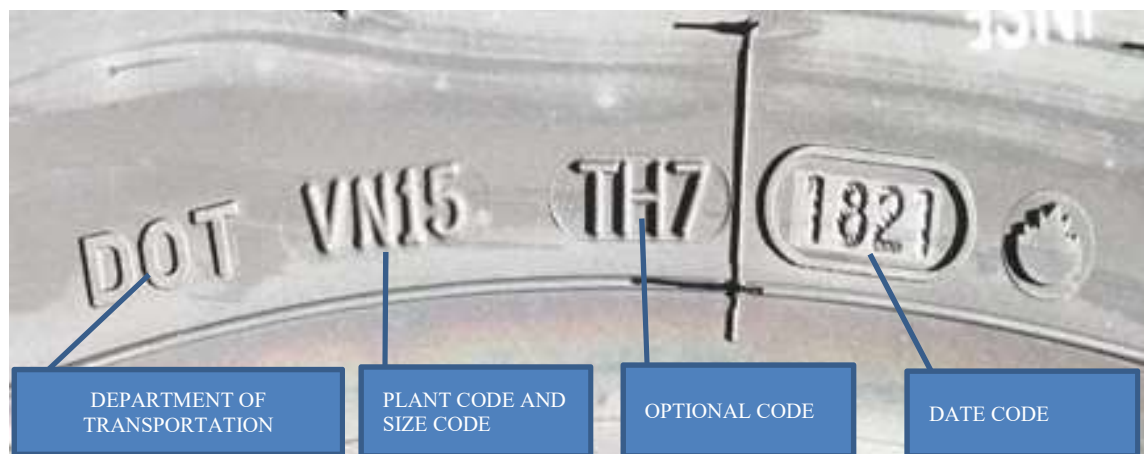
APPENDIX A

DESCRIPTION OF TIRES COVERED AND HOW TO IDENTIFY THEM

There are two tire lines and DOT tire identification numbers (“TIN”) covered by this recall (see the chart below).

ARTICLE	TIRE SIZE	TIRE LINE	DOT TIN			DOT Week/Year	
						START	END
2250109 250109	LT275/70R18	Transforce HT	VN	15	TH7	1821	1821
2250381 250381	LT275/70R18	Transforce AT	VN	15	TR9	1821	1821

The tire’s DOT TIN can be found on the sidewall just above the rim (see photos on pages 7 and 8). In the example below, the DOT TIN ends with “1821”, which indicates that the tire was made in the 18th week of 2021.

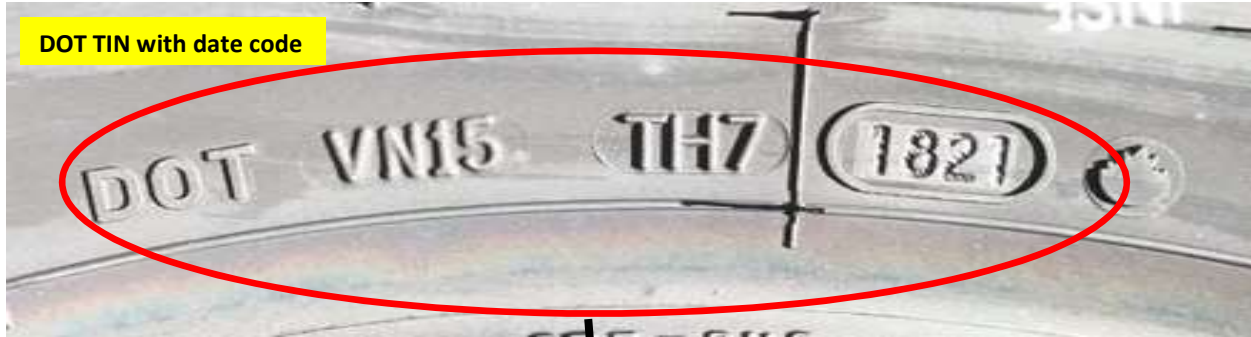


Any tires that meet the descriptions contained in this letter are subject to this recall and should be replaced. If you believe you may have one of these tires, please examine the sidewalls of your tires to confirm:

1. The tire line;
2. The tire size; and
3. The affected DOT TIN.

See photos below for the sidewall locations of each these three identifiable marks.

For Firestone Transforce HT LT275/70R18 (Article #s 250109 and 2250109)



For Firestone Transforce AT LT275/70R18 (Article #s 250381 and 2250381)

