

Sumitomo Rubber USA, LLC (“SRUSA”)
Chronology of Defect Determination

Friday, Oct 20, 2023: Sumitomo Rubber North America, Inc. (“SRNA”) learned from a distributor of three separate consumer complaints alleging air loss in newly installed tires involving three Falken WildPeak AT3W tires (265/70R17 115T) (“AT3W Tires”). SRNA notified the manufacturing plant Sumitomo Rubber USA (SRUSA).

Oct 21 – Nov 1, 2023: SRUSA and SRNA investigated the complaints. SRUSA obtained and analyzed the tires involved in the consumer complaints. SRUSA determined that the suspect tires were manufactured the 30th to 34th weeks of 2023. SRNA initiated an inventory freeze of AT3W Tires manufactured in that timeframe, while SRUSA continued to investigate the issue. SRNA requested that the distributor that provided the complaints freeze its inventory of potentially affected tires while SRUSA continued to investigate.

Nov 2 – Nov 30, 2023: SRUSA’s investigation discovered a potential manufacturing concern on a single specific curing press, which could cause a puncture of the tire during the post-cure inflation. The investigation determined that certain Wildpeak HT02 tires (LT235/85R16 120/116S) manufactured the 26th to 29th weeks of 2023 (“HT02 Tires”) had the same puncture condition. SRUSA confirmed the puncture condition only affected tires cured in the specific press identified by specific mold numbers within the DOT weeks those molds ran in that press location. Records confirmed the press was repaired on 8/22/23; but this issue was thought isolated at the time to tires contained within the plant. SRNA initiated an inventory freeze on the HT02 Tires. SRUSA escalated the issue to its parent company Sumitomo Rubber Industries, Ltd. (“SRI”).

Nov 30, 2023: Based on the consumer complaints and its internal investigation, SRI’s Quality Assurance Department determined that affected tires may not comply with FMVSS 139.

As of the date of this filing, there have been no reports of injuries or vehicle damage related to this condition.