



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration**

1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

March 9, 2012

MR. MARK LAMMLEIN
GTC NORTH AMERICA, INC.
4580 STEPHEN CIRCLE, NW
SUITE 202
CANTON, OH 44718

NVS-215kjs
12T-004

Subject: TREAD OR SIDEWALL SEPARATION

Dear MR. LAMMLEIN:

This letter serves to acknowledge GTC North America, Inc.'s (GTC) notification to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) of a noncompliance with Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard (FMVSS) No. 139, "New Pneumatic Radial Tires for Light Vehicles," for which a safety recall campaign will be conducted pursuant to Federal law for the tires listed below.

Please review the following information to ensure that it conforms to your records as this information is being made available to the public. If the information does not agree with your records, please contact us immediately to discuss your concerns.

Makes/Models/Model Years:

ADVANCE EXTRA GRIP/AR215/P235/75R15 LT

NHTSA Campaign Number: 12T-004

Mfg's Report Date: March 9, 2012

Components: TIRES

Potential Number of Units Affected: 12,289

Summary:

GTC NORTH AMERICA, INC., (GTC) IS RECALLING CERTAIN ADVANCE EXTRA GRIP AR215 LIGHT TRUCK RADIAL TIRES, SIZE P235/75R15, PRODUCED FROM SEPTEMBER 2008 THROUGH DECEMBER 2009. SOME OF THE SUBJECT TIRES EXPERIENCE BLISTERING OR BUBBLES ON THE TIRE'S SIDEWALL. THESE TIRES FAIL TO CONFORM TO THE REQUIREMENTS OF FEDERAL MOTOR VEHICLE SAFETY STANDARD NO. 139, "NEW PNEUMATIC RADIAL TIRES FOR LIGHT VEHICLES."

Consequence:

THESE TIRES MAY EXPERIENCE BLISTERING ON THEIR SIDEWALL THAT, WITH EXTENDED USE, COULD LEAD TO TREAD CHUNKING WITH BELT EDGE EXPOSURE AND POSSIBLE AIR LOSS, THEREBY INCREASING THE POTENTIAL RISK OF PROPERTY DAMAGE, PERSONAL INJURY, OR A CRASH.

Remedy:

GTC WILL NOTIFY OWNERS, AND REPLACE THE NONCOMPLIANT TIRES WITH A SIMILAR TIRE FREE OF CHARGE. FREE MOUNTING AND BALANCING WILL ALSO BE INCLUDED, AS APPLICABLE. THE SAFETY RECALL IS EXPECTED TO BEGIN DURING MARCH 2012. OWNERS MAY CONTACT GTC AT 1-330-498-5000.

Notes:

OWNERS MAY ALSO CONTACT THE NATIONAL HIGHWAY TRAFFIC SAFETY ADMINISTRATION'S VEHICLE SAFETY HOTLINE AT 1-888-327-4236 (TTY 1-800-424-9153), OR GO TO [HTTP://WWW.SAFERCAR.GOV](http://www.safercar.gov).

Please be aware of the following information:

We have received GTC's proposed notification letter and it is currently under review. You will be notified of any changes or concerns once our review is complete.

Copies of all notices, bulletins, dealer notifications, and other communications that relate to this recall, including a copy of the final owner notification letter and any subsequent owner follow-up notification letter(s), are required to be submitted to this office no later than 5 days after they are originally sent (if they are sent to more than one manufacturer, distributor, dealer, or purchaser/owner).

GTC must file a sample of the envelope which you intend to use to mail the recall notice to owners. The words "SAFETY", "RECALL", "NOTICE" in any order must be printed on the envelope in larger font than the customer's name and address.

As stated in Part 573.7, submission of the first of six consecutive quarterly status reports is required within one month after the close of the calendar quarter in which notification to purchasers occurs. Therefore, the first quarterly report will be due on or before 30 days after the close of the calendar quarter.

Your contact for this recall will be Kelly Schuler, who may be reached by phone at 1-202-366-5227, by email at Kelly.Schuler@dot.gov, or through the office email at RMD.ODI@dot.gov. We look forward to working with you for successful completion of this recall campaign.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jennifer Timian". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Jennifer Timian
Chief, Recall Management Division
Office of Defects Investigation
Enforcement