



Bridgestone Americas Tire Operations, LLC  
535 Marriott Drive  
Nashville, TN USA 37214

January XX, 2014

**IMPORTANT SAFETY RECALL**

NHTSA Recall Number 13T-011

Dear Bridgestone 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 a defect which relates to motor vehicle safety exists in certain Firestone HP3000 315/80R22.5 tires sold in the replacement market in Guam and has initiated a voluntary safety recall of all 36 imported tires. This action is taken in response to Bridgestone Corporation’s November 7, 2013 voluntary safety recall of various truck and bus tires in Japan.

You are receiving this letter because Bridgestone’s records indicate that you have purchased 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**

The recall is attributed to a possible abnormality in the tire innerliner caused by intermittent irregularities in the manufacturing process at Bridgestone Corporation’s Tochigi plant following a production change, which could result in decreased adhesion levels at the splice in a small number of tires. In these instances, there is a possibility that decreased adhesion of the splice could lead to cracking and a slow air leak into the tire sidewall. An accumulation of air could result in a bulge on the sidewall. Eventually, in a worst case, air loss could disable the tire. If the tire is not replaced, the motor vehicle could become disabled and increase the potential risk of a vehicle crash.

Consistent with the company’s long-standing commitment to safety, customer satisfaction and service, owners of the tires of the pattern and size and exact Department of Transportation (“DOT”) serial number and production period range identified in the following table are urged to contact a Bridgestone dealer to arrange verification and replacement at no charge through June 30, 2014.

<b>Brand</b>	<b>Pattern</b>	<b>Size</b>	<b>DOT Serial</b>	<b>DOT Week</b>
Firestone	HP3000	315/80R22.5	EP4D2HX	0412-3213

The tires that are the subject of this recall will be replaced with HP3000 315/80R22.5 tires that are not included in the recall. These replacement tires are expected to be available after February 1, 2014 through Bisnes Mami, Inc. In the event that a Firestone tire is not available, a suitable competitive product may be used as a replacement tire.

## II. 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 and match the EXACT range of DOT serial numbers listed in the table above 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 information 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 and/or mounting of these tires. Immediately count your inventory of affected tires and record specific DOT identification numbers. Provide this information to Mr. Don Nelson of BATO at [nelsondon@bfusa.com](mailto:nelsondon@bfusa.com) or (615) 937-3161 for return authorization and instructions.

Promptly return all recalled tires from your inventory to Bridgestone as per BATO's directions. Bridgestone will arrange for handling disabling of the tires. You will be compensated for all recalled (new) tires that you return from inventory.

2) **Provide BATO the List of Owners of Recalled Tires**

Please check your sales records to determine if you have sold or leased any of the voluntary safety recall tires listed in the table above. If you find that you have sold or leased any of the voluntary safety recall tires, 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 to: [nelsondon@bfusa.com](mailto:nelsondon@bfusa.com) (Preferred Method)  
or Fax to: (615) 493-0495 (Attention: Tire Safety Recall)  
or Mail to:

Bridgestone Americas Tire Operations, LLC  
Attention: Mr. Don Nelson  
535 Marriott Drive  
Nashville, TN 37214 USA

Customers who are identified as potential purchasers of the affected tires will be issued a letter requesting that the owner check all tires fitting the description above 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 check the telephone yellow pages under "Tire Dealers" for commercial truck tire locations. In addition, the customer may call Bisnes Mami, Inc. at 671-633-3026 for assistance in locating a commercial truck tire retailer location that will assist in examining the tire.

3) **Replacement of Mounted Recalled Tires**

Customers who visit a commercial tire dealer in connection with this recall must have all tires inspected in order to determine whether the DOT serial numbers are an exact match as indicated above. Please make sure to check each tire closely. If the DOT serial numbers do not exactly match the DOT code range described above, the tire is not part of the recall.

Any tire with DOT serial numbers exactly matching the DOT code range described above are 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 (including new tires and those taken out of service). The tires will be processed as a no charge tire adjustment. List the words "SAFETY RECALL" as the reason for adjustment on the Bridgestone/Firestone Warranty Form. 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.

Dealers must secure the recalled tires and notify BATO for return authorization and instructions. All Firestone HP3000 315/80R22.5 tires removed from service under this program must be returned to Bridgestone intact to allow BATO to complete the recall process in accordance with the tire warranty adjustment procedure and permanently disable and dispose of the tires.

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 RECALL 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.safercar.gov](http://www.safercar.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;
- 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.

### **III. BRIDGESTONE'S COMMITMENT**

We are committed to safety, customer satisfaction, and service. If you have any additional questions, please contact Mr. Don Nelson at [nelsondon@bfusa.com](mailto:nelsondon@bfusa.com) or (615) 937-3161 for further assistance.

We regret the inconvenience that this recall may cause you, but we are certain you will understand our interest in your safety.

Very truly yours,

Bridgestone Americas Tire Operations, LLC

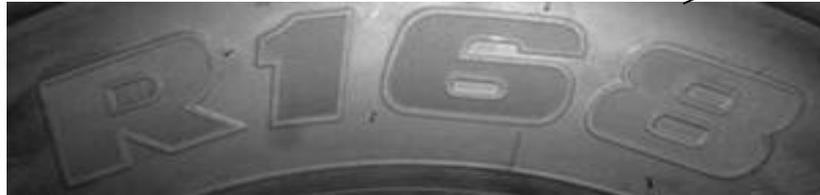
## APPENDIX A

### DESCRIPTION OF TIRES COVERED AND HOW TO IDENTIFY THEM

If you believe you may have one of these tires, please examine your tires' sidewalls to see if any of them meet all of the following conditions:

- (1) The pattern is identified as "HP3000"

Example  
Pattern



- (2) The following size information is molded into the sidewall of the tire:  
315/80R22.5

Example  
Size



- (3) The tire's DOT serial number can be found on the sidewall just above the rim. An example of a DOT serial number covered by this recall is: EP 4D 2HX WWYY (where the "WW" indicates the week and the "YY" indicates the year of manufacture). The exact DOT serial number ranges of the tires in this recall are listed in the table above.

DOT example,  
the actual DOT  
week ends at 32



Any tires that meet the above descriptions and match the exact range of DOT serial numbers listed in the table above are subject to this recall and should be replaced.