



U.S. Department
of Transportation
**National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration**

ODI RESUME

Investigation: EQ 07-002
 Prompted By: RECALL 07T-003
 Date Opened: 06/28/2007
 Principal Investigator: RIC WILLARD
 Subject: LIGHT TRUCK RADIAL TIRES; FTS

Manufacturer : FOREIGN TIRE SALES, INC
 Products: LTR TIRES HANGZHOU ZHONGCE RUBBER CO. LTD.
 Population: 450000 (ESTIMATED)

Problem Description: CERTAIN FOREIGN TIRE SALES (FTS) TIRES WERE MANUFACTURED WITHOUT A GUM STRIP OR WITH AN INSUFFICIENT GUM STRIP BETWEEN THE BELTS OR OTHER CONSTRUCTION TO KEEP THE BELTS FROM SEPARATING.

FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

	ODI	Manufacturer	Total
Complaints:	0	0	0
Crashes/Fires:	0	2	2
Injury Incidents:	0	1	1
# Injuries:	0	1	1
Fatality Incidents:	0	1	1
# Fatalities:	0	2	2
Other*:	0	0	0

*Description of Other:

Action AN EQUIPMENT QUERY (EQ) HAS BEEN OPENED.

Engineer: Richard Willard

Date: 06/29/2007

Div. Chief: George Person

Date: 06/29/2007

Summary: Foreign Tire Sales, Inc. (FTS) has decided that a defect may exist in certain light truck radial tires (LTR) manufactured by Hangzhou Zhongce Rubber Co Ltd. (HZ) in Hangzhou, China under the brand names Westlake, Telluride, Compass and YKS. FTS alleges that HZ discontinued the use of, and later reincorporated less effective, belt edge strips (gum strips) in the construction of the subject tires without FTS's approval or knowledge. According to FTS, such construction is susceptible to tread separation, which can result in vehicle crash, property damage, injury or death. FTS has reported two (2) fatalities and one (1) serious injury allegedly resulting from an incident involving tread separation on one of these tires.

In its defect information report, FTS has identified other entities that may have imported similar potentially defective tires fabricated in China by HZ. This investigation had been opened to determine the extent of distribution of defective tires fabricated by HZ, and to request certain information and possibly remind importers, defined to be manufactures under Federal Law, of their responsibilities for ensuring safe motor vehicle products and tires.