



COOPER TIRE & RUBBER COMPANY
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July 11, 2007

VIA FACSIMILE AND REGULAR U.S. MAIL

Mr. George H. Person, Chief
Recall Management Division
Office of Defects Investigation
U.S. Department of Transportation
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

RE: *NVS-215rw*
EQ07-002

Dear Mr. Person,

On or about July 2, 2007, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration ("NHTSA") issued a letter to Cooper Tire & Rubber Company ("Cooper Tire") indicating that it is conducting a formal investigation involving light truck tires produced by Hangzhou Zhongce Rubber Co., Ltd. and imported into the United States. In its letter, NHTSA requested certain documents and information which we are providing as follows:

1. Please identify by brand, model name and size all light truck radial tires produced by HZR that are the same size as any of the tires identified on page 1 of this letter, and which were imported into the United States by your company between January 2001 to the present, that your company sold or otherwise distributed in the United States. These tires are referred hereinafter as "similar tires."

None

2. If your company does not agree with the statement made in the enclosed report by FTS that your company imported tires manufactured by HZR that are similarly constructed and of the same size as those identified by FTS, and if your company does not believe that those similar tires contain a safety-related defect, please provide an explanation for your company's position.

HZR has never produced a light truck tire for Cooper Tire

3. Separately, for each tire line identified as similar tires above, state quantity of, and the range of TINs, for those tires that your company sold to wholesalers, retail distributors or dealers, or to the general public through individual sales.

N/A

4. As to all similar tires that you have identified in response to Request No. 1 above, please provide the following information:
 - a. Identify by contact name, address and phone number each wholesaler, retail distributor or dealer, and individual member of the general public to whom your company directly sold or otherwise distributed any of the similar tires. Provide the number of tires sold or otherwise distributed to each, separately identified by brand name and size.
 - b. Provide a copy of each tire registration form (see 49 C.F.R. part 574) and comparable information (e.g., data bases and files with names of tire purchasers (not for resale)).

N/A

5. State whether or not your company imported and sold tires bearing the manufacturing code "FTS" in the TIN.

No

6. State, with respect to the tires identified in response to Request No.1 above, by tire brand name, model, tire size and year of manufacture, the number of each of the following, received by your company, or of which your company is otherwise aware, which relate to, or may relate to tread separation, blowout or belt to belt separation in the similar tires that you imported:
 - a. Reports involving a crash, injury, or fatality, based on claims against your company and/or HZR involving a death or injury, notices received by your company or HZR alleging or proving that a death or injury was caused by a possible defect in a subject vehicle;
 - b. Property damage claims;
 - c. Warranty adjustments;
 - d. Complaints, including those from fleet operators;
 - e. Third-party arbitration proceedings where your company is or was a party to the arbitration; and,
 - f. Lawsuits, both pending and closed, in which your company is or was a defendant or codefendant.

For subparts "a" through "f," state the total number of each item (e.g., fatality reports, property damage claims, warranty adjustments, etc.) separately. Multiple incidents involving the same tire are to be counted separately. Multiple reports of the same incident are also to be counted separately (i.e., a property damage claim and warranty adjustment involving the same incident in which a crash occurred are to be counted as a property damage claim and a warranty adjustment). In addition, for items "a" through "f," provide a summary description of the alleged problem and causal and contributing factors and your company's assessment of the problem, with a summary

of the significant underlying facts and evidence. For items "e" and "f," identify the parties to the action, as well as the caption, court, docket number, and date on which the complaint or other document initiating the action was filed.

N/A

7. Produce copies of all documents related to each item within the scope of your response to Request No. 6, including, but not limited to, received complaints and warranty adjustment claims. Describe the search method used by your company in identifying these documents. Organize the documents separately by category (i.e., fatality, property damage claims, warranty adjustments, etc.) and describe the method your company used for organizing the documents.

N/A

8. Describe all testing that your company conducted, arranged to have conducted (e.g., by a test laboratory) and/or that your company otherwise relied on in certifying that each of the subject tires were in compliance with the Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards. For each test, state the date of the test, describe the tire tested including model, size, and production date, describe the test (e.g., FMVSS No. 119 with "S" paragraph number) and state the test results. This information request covers a period prior to 2001 if the certification testing occurred before 2001.

N/A

9. Describe all testing that your company conducted, arranged to have conducted (e.g., by a test laboratory) and/or about which your company otherwise had information on the subject tires, other than certification tests identified in your answer to Number 8 above. For each test, state the date of the test, describe the tire tested including model, size, and production date, describe the test and state the test results. This information request covers a period prior to 2001 if for subject tires designed and tested before 2001.

N/A

10. Provide copies of all communications with HZR related to durability and performance of the subject tires.

N/A

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Very truly yours,


Jay McCracken

JJM/bmm