

f a c s i m i l e
TRANSMITTAL

To Office of Defects Investigation "NSA-10"
Department of Transportation
NATIONAL HIGHWAY TRAFFIC SAFETY ADMINISTRATION
400 7th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Phone # 202/366-5227/main
Fax # 202/366-7882/fax

Re Cooper Tire & Rubber Company
Recall Number 126
NHTSA Recall No. 04T-001

Date February 4, 2004

Pages 17, including this cover sheet.

Please deliver the following to:

Mr. George Person
Recall Management Regulations.

Should there be any questions, please call me at 419.424.4333.


Jack Jay McCracken



COOPER TIRE & RUBBER COMPANY

701 LIMA AVENUE
FINDLAY, OHIO 45840

JACK JAY MCCRACKEN
SENIOR ATTORNEY
PATENT COUNSEL

PHONE: (416) 424-4333
FAX: (416) 424-7380
e-mail: jmcra@coopertr.com

February 4, 2004

**SENT VIA CERTIFIED MAIL
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED 7106 4578 1282 4110 3584**

Associate Administrator for Enforcement
NATIONAL HIGHWAY TRAFFIC SAFETY ADMINISTRATION
400 7th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Re: NHTSA Assigned Recall No. 04T-001

Gentlemen:

This will supplement our January 27, 2004 letter regarding Cooper Recall No. 128. On the letter to the Dealer and to the Customer, in the second sentence, the word "determined" has been changed to "decided", in accordance with your February 2, 2004 Acknowledgment Fax Sheet of Receipt of Defect Information Report Submitted Under 49 CFR Part 573.

As requested by Ms. Kelly Schuler, attached is a copy of the Period Calendar for 2003 showing the manufacture dates for Cooper-produced tires.

Three copies of the appropriate notification to dealers and customers are attached as exhibits in response to Item 9 of the Defect and Noncompliance information Report.

If you have any questions regarding the above, please advise.

Very truly yours,


Jack Jay McCracken

JJM/rig
933039r1 @legalmap -naapl #128 - 03-04-04 (forwarding attached document).wpd
Attachments

Associate Administrator for Enforcement
NATIONAL HIGHWAY TRAFFIC SAFETY ADMINISTRATION
February 4, 2004
Page 2

cc: Office of Defects Investigation "NSA-10"
Department of Transportation
NATIONAL HIGHWAY TRAFFIC SAFETY ADMINISTRATION
400 7th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20590
Fax Number 202/366-7882
Attn: Mr. George Person
Recall Management Regulations

PERIOD CALENDAR - 2003

Period	Tire Identification								
	Number	Date							
1	0103	January	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
	0203	January	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
	0303	January	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
	0403	January	26	27	28	29	30	31	1
2	0503	February	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	0603	February	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
	0703	February	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
3	0803	February	23	24	25	26	27	28	1
	0903	March	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	1003	March	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
	1103	March	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
4	1203	March	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
	1303	March	30	31	1	2	3	4	5
	1403	April	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
	1503	April	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
5	1603	April	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
	1703	April	27	28	29	30	1	2	3
	1803	May	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	1903	May	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
6	2003	May	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
	2103	May	25	26	27	28	29	30	31
	2203	June	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	2303	June	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
7	2403	June	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
	2503	June	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
	2603	June	29	30	1	2	3	4	5
	2703	July	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
8	2803	July	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
	2903	July	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
	3003	July	27	28	29	30	31	1	2
	3103	August	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
9	3203	August	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
	3303	August	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
	3403	August	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
	3503	August	31	1	2	3	4	5	6
10	3603	September	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
	3703	September	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
	3803	September	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
	3903	September	28	29	30	1	2	3	4
11	4003	October	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
	4103	October	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
	4203	October	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
	4303	October	26	27	28	29	30	31	1
12	4403	November	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	4503	November	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
	4603	November	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
	4703	November	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
13	4803	November	30	1	2	3	4	5	6
	4903	December	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
	5003	December	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
	5103	December	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
	5203	December	28	29	30	31	1	2	3

COOPER TIRE & RUBBER COMPANY
DEFECT AND NONCOMPLIANCE INFORMATION REPORT

DATE: 01/22/04

NETSA CAMPAIGN NO.

COOPER NO. 126

1. NAME OF MANUFACTURER

A. Fabricating Manufacturer: Cooper Tire & Rubber Company

B. Brand Name or Trademark Owner:

BRAND NAME

OWNER

COOPER WEATHER MASTER ST-2

Cooper Tire & Rubber Company

2. POTENTIAL NUMBER OF AFFECTED TIRES (including a description of the basis for the determination of the recall population and a description of how these items differ from similar items not included in the recall):

<u>Description (including size)</u>	<u>Inclusive Dates (week and year) of Manufacture</u>	<u>Number of Potentially Affected Units</u>	<u>Estimated Percent Containing Defect or Noncompliance</u>
235/75R15 Tubeless Radial Standard Load			
COOPER WEATHER	U91TC744403 - B13L	366	0.316%
MASTER ST-2	U91TC744503 - B13L	75	7.23%

Nov. 2, 2003 thru Nov. 15, 2003

The recall population was determined by a review of our Curing Department records and our internal inventory count reconciliation. The tires being recalled differ from similar items in that they were molded with a different DOT serial week and year (4403 - 4503) in accordance with 49 CFR 574.5.

3. TOTAL UNITS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED: 441

4. TOTAL ESTIMATED PERCENT CONTAINING DEFECT: 3.04%

COOPER TIRE & RUBBER COMPANY
DEFECT AND NONCOMPLIANCE INFORMATION REPORT

5. **DESCRIPTION OF DEFECT OR NONCOMPLIANCE** (including brief summary and detailed description, with graphic aids as necessary, of nature and physical location of the defect or noncompliance):

The affected tires may have innerliner tears caused by the process of ejecting the tire from the mold after curing. We have observed that when this condition exists, it appears only in the interior bead areas approximately 0.50" from the bead toe.

The affected tires in this campaign have been isolated to a single press location. The press medallion label is E13L, which is molded directly adjacent to the DOT Serial Number.

6. **CHRONOLOGY OF ALL PRINCIPLE EVENTS THAT WERE THE BASIS FOR THE EXISTENCE OF A SAFETY RELATED DEFECT** (including a summary of all warranty claims, field service reports, and other information, with their dates of receipt):

During visual inspection on November 17, 2003, tires produced in curing press E13L during DOT serial week 4603 were found with the torn innerliner condition. Upon further investigation, we determined the potential existed for tires produced during DOT serial weeks 4403 - 4603 to have the condition. Our inventory of weeks 4403 - 4603 has been completely sorted and re-inspected with a total of 39 tires found to have this condition. All tires produced during week 4603 have been accounted for in our inventory. For weeks 4403 and 4503, there was a total net cure of 1,282 tires, of which we have accounted for 841 tires and there are 441 tires unaccounted for. Cooper is voluntarily recalling these 441 tires.

7. **COMPLIANCE TESTING OR OTHER DATA THAT WAS THE BASIS FOR DETERMINING THE EXISTENCE OF NONCOMPLIANCE:**

The existence of the condition was determined by visual inspection.

8. **STATEMENT OF MEASURES TO BE TAKEN TO REMEDY THE DEFECT OR NONCOMPLIANCE:**

Tires with the affected DOT serial week identification numbers and press medallion E13L should be shipped to one of our regional inspection points. All tires returned to Cooper will be inspected for the correct DOT identification number and press medallion. Any tire found to have the affected DOT serial numbers (4403 or 4503) and the torn innerliner condition will be scrapped.

9. **ENCLOSURES, IF ANY** (Three copies of all notices, bulletins and other communications that were sent to more than one distributor, dealer or purchaser and relate directly to the defect or noncompliance):

See Exhibit Index and Exhibits I and II

COOPER RADIAL PASSENGER TIRE RECALL CAMPAIGN

- Exhibit I** Notification to Cooper dealers consisting of Cooper Dealer Letter, Cooper Consumer Letter and Forms (See Exhibit II for forms).
- Exhibit II** Forms as included in notifications above where noted. (packing slip & map).



COOPER TIRE

COOPER TIRE & RUBBER COMPANY
701 LIMA AVE. • FINDLAY, OH 44840-2915 • (419) 428-1821 • www.coopertr.com

February 04, 2004

Dear Dealer:

This notice is sent to you in accordance with the requirements of the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act.

Cooper Tire & Rubber Company has decided that a defect which relates to motor vehicle safety exists in some tires identified as follows:

235/75R15 Tubeless Radial Standard Load Cooper Weathermaster ST-2 441 Tires

Identification Numbers: U81TC744403
U81TC744503

With Press Medallion Number E13L

Our company's surveillance indicates that the tires described above may have innerliner tears caused by the process of ejecting the tire from the mold after curing. We have observed that when this condition exists, it appears only in the interior bead areas approximately 0.50" from the bead toe. When this condition exists, it could result in accelerated air loss. The loss of air could cause the tire to run under-inflated and result in early failure. Loss of air might result in loss of steering control with vehicle crash the potential occurrence. Driving at highway speeds should be avoided until the tires have been inspected and replaced if they bear the identification number(s) shown above.

Cooper Tire & Rubber Company is voluntarily recalling all of the tires with the identification number(s) and press medallion number listed. Effective immediately, you or your dealers must not sell any of the tires listed and described above.

You should also comply with the following instructions regarding the return of new and used tires at no charge in accordance with such provisions.

PROCEDURE FOR RETURN AND CREDIT OF RECALLED TIRES

NEW TIRES:

All recalled new tires existing in your inventory, or in your sub-dealers' inventories, should be returned immediately in one shipment, freight collect, to the designated inspection point for your area as indicated on the attached map. To assure proper handling, these tires should be listed on the attached Returned Goods Form and the form must accompany this shipment in the packing slip envelope provided. This envelope must be listed on the bill of lading as: "1 envelope - related shipping documents."

Upon verification by Cooper that the tires returned are within the recall group, we will issue credit to you based upon your invoice price of the tires.

USED TIRES:

Cooper Tire's registration records are being searched and consumers who have purchased tires with the subject identification number(s) are being notified of the RECALL. Attached for your information is a copy of the notification being sent to such consumers. Tires removed from consumer vehicles as a result of this RECALL should be replaced with tires of like size and construction bearing identification numbers other than those listed above.

We have advised the consumer to return his recalled tire(s) and his letter to you. If your inspection verifies that the consumer has a tire(s) with the suspect identification number(s) and press medallion number, the tire(s) should be replaced, mounted and balanced at no charge, if presented for remedy within sixty (60) days after (i) receipt of this letter or (ii) notice that a replacement tire(s) is available (if not available at the time of the inspection). It is expected that replacement tire(s) will be available at the time of inspection, however, if the tires are not available at the time of inspection, they will be available within twenty-one (21) days. After expiration of the sixty (60) days, tires will be replaced under our normal adjustment policy.

We have advised the consumer that it will take approximately thirty (30) minutes each to replace the recalled tires. For any tires removed from consumer vehicles during such sixty (60) day period, Cooper Tire will authorize an allowance of \$8.00 per tire to cover mounting and balancing.

"YOU ARE PROHIBITED BY FEDERAL LAW FROM SELLING NEW OR USED TIRES COVERED BY THIS NOTIFICATION."

Tires removed from consumer vehicles must be listed on our standard Tire and Tube Claim Form. The Claim Form must be properly completed and signed by the consumer and the consumer's copy of the recall letter attached. This claim form must accompany the shipment according to standard adjustment procedures.

For the purpose of the RECALL, the Claim Form must include RECALL tires only. The word "RECALL" must be printed directly below the name and address on the claim form. All tires should be identified in crayon with the Claim Form reference number per standard adjustment procedures.

Upon verification by Cooper Tire, credit will be issued to you on a no charge replacement basis if replaced by you and returned to Cooper on or before ninety (90) days after notice of this RECALL.

You should return in one shipment all recalled used tires to the inspection point as indicated on the attached map. These tires should be classified as SCRAP and shipped as SCRAP RUBBER TIRES, freight collect. Freight collect privileges apply only within the prescribed time period. Any tires returned after the designated time will be handled under our regular adjustment procedures.

Cooper Tire requests that you advise if of those customers of yours, if any, who have purchased any of the tires described above for which registration forms have not previously been submitted so that such customers can be advised of the recall and the replacement of their recalled tires can be scheduled.

If you have any questions pertaining to the implementation of this RECALL or need assistance, please contact Cooper Tire Consumer Relations Department (800) 854-8288.

Sincerely,

Jonathan D. Thomas, Operations Manager
Consumer Relations

JDT:kaw

Attachments

9



COOPER TIRE

COOPER TIRE & RUBBER COMPANY
701 LIMA AVE. • FINDLAY, OH 43840-2515 • (910) 428-1321 • www.cooper-tires.com

Dear Customer:

This notice is sent to you in accordance with the requirements of the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act.

Cooper Tire & Rubber Company has decided that a defect which relates to motor vehicle safety exists in some tires identified as follows:

235/75R15 Tubeless Radial Standard Load Cooper Weathermaster ST-2

Identification Numbers: U91TC744403
U91TC744503

With Press Medallion Number: E13L

Our company's surveillance indicates that the tires described above may have innerliner tears caused by the process of ejecting the tire from the mold after curing. We have observed that when this condition exists, it appears only in the interior bead areas approximately 0.50" from the bead toe. When this condition exists, it could result in accelerated air loss. The loss of air could cause the tire to run under-inflated and result in early failure. Loss of air might result in loss of steering control with vehicle crash the potential occurrence. Driving at highway speeds should be avoided until the tires have been inspected and replaced if they bear the identification number(s) and press medallion number shown above.

Cooper Tire is voluntarily recalling all of the tires with the identification number(s) and press medallion number above. To insure your safety and satisfaction with our product, we request that you return the recalled tires and this letter to your dealer. If the inspection verifies that you have a tire or tires with the suspect identification number(s) and press medallion number, they will be replaced, mounted and balanced at no charge to you if you have presented them for remedy within sixty (60) days after (i) receipt of this letter or (ii) notice that a replacement tire is available (if not available at the time of inspection). It is expected that replacement tires will be available at the time of inspection, however, if the tires are not available at the time of inspection, they will be available within twenty-one (21) days. After expiration of the sixty (60) day period, tires will be replaced under our normal adjustment policy.

The time required to determine if the tire is subject to RECALL is only a few minutes and approximately thirty (30) minutes per tire if replacement is required.

Should any questions or problems arise while your tires are being inspected or replaced, please call Consumer Relations at (800) 854-6288. We will attempt to be of service to you. In the event you believe we have failed to or are unable to replace your tire(s) without charge to you, within the sixty (60) day period described above, you may so notify the Secretary of Transportation at the following address: Administrator, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Washington, DC 20590, or phone NHTSA "Hot Line" (888) 327-4236.

We regret this inconvenience, but are sure that you understand our interest in your safety and satisfaction with your tires. Please see your dealer immediately for free replacement of the recalled tires. Give this letter to them so that it can be returned to us for purposes of this recall.

Sincerely,

Jonathan D. Thomas, Operations Manager
Consumer Relations

JDT:kaw

TO BE COMPLETED BY DEALER

Tires inspected and replaced _____
(date)

Dealer stamp or name and address

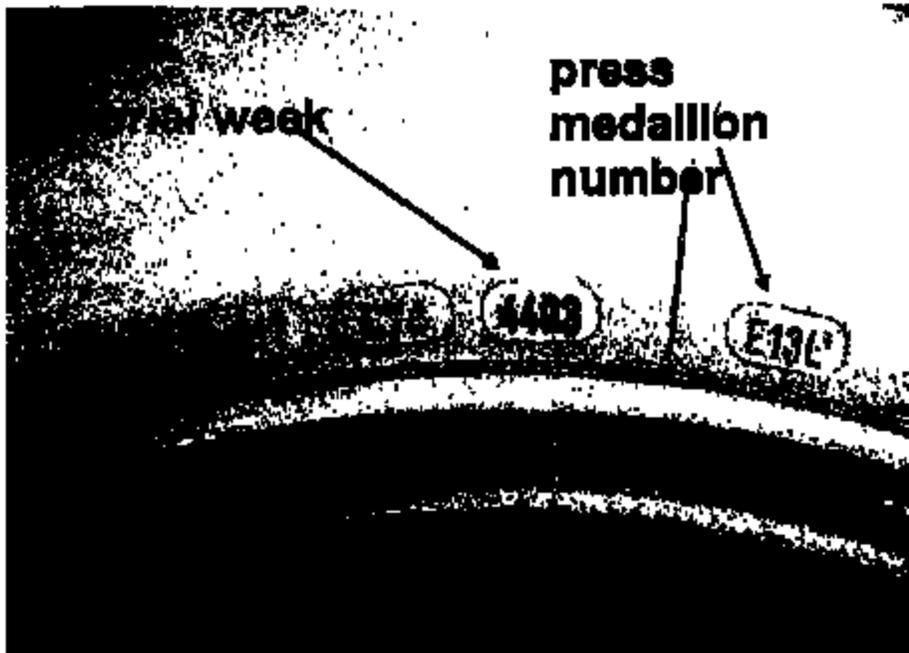
Dealer: Please complete the above, attach letter to the tire and tube claim form and return with the recalled tires.

235/75R15 COOPER WEATHERMASTER ST-2

STEEL BELTED RADIAL

RECALL #126 OF JANUARY 2004

FOR ILLUSTRATION PURPOSES - ONLY TIRES WITH THE SUBJECT SERIAL NUMBERS AND THE PRESS MEDALLION NUMBER "E13L" ARE BEING RECALLED. THE PHOTO BELOW SHOWS AN EXAMPLE OF A RECALLED TIRE SERIAL NUMBER AND THE PRESS MEDALLION NUMBER INVOLVED IN THIS RECALL.



ALL ADJUSTMENT PAPER WORK:
COOPER TIRE
PO BOX 850
FINDLAY, OH 43830

OVER 1000 LBS CAN BE SENT FREIGHT
COLLECT- CHECK SCRAP RUBBER CLASS 50

*DO NOT USE YELLOW FREIGHT UNLESS THE
OTHER REGIONAL CARRIERS DO NOT PICK UP
FROM YOUR LOCATION.

COOPER TIRE

REGIONAL INSPECTION POINTS AND REQUIRED CARRIERS FOR ADJUSTMENT TIRES & TUBES

COOPER TIRE COMPANY R/P
141 STANFORD PKWY.
FINDLAY, OH 43840

-OLD DOMINION FREIGHT LINE
800-295-5800

-FED EX FREIGHT EAST
800-674-4722 X2174

-FINDLAY TRUCK LINE (OH ONLY)
419-822-1845

-YELLOW FREIGHT
800-610-8500



COOPER TIRE COMPANY R/P
9363 LUCAS BARNH ROAD
RANCHO CIGAMONGA, CA 91738

-CRESENT
800-722-3171

-YELLOW FREIGHT
800-610-8500

COOPER TIRE COMPANY R/P
2861 1/2 WASHINGTON ST.
TEKARKAMA, AR 71064

-OLD DOMINION FREIGHT LINE
800-295-5800

-FED EX FREIGHT EAST
800-674-4722 X2174

-YELLOW FREIGHT
800-610-8500

COOPER TIRE COMPANY R/P
3308 SYLVESTER ROAD
ALBANY, GA 31708

-OLD DOMINION FREIGHT LINE
800-295-5800

-FED EX FREIGHT EAST
800-674-4722 X2174

-YELLOW FREIGHT
800-610-8500



COOPER TIRE & RUBBER COMPANY
FINLAY, OHIO 43840

SAFETY RECALL NOTICE