

AUG 23 2000

Mr. Robert J. Wyant  
Division Vice President, Corporate Quality Assurance  
Bridgestone/Firestone, Inc.  
50 Century Boulevard  
Nashville, TN 37214

NSA-11kjs  
00T-005

Dear Mr. Wyant:

We have reviewed Bridgestone/Firestone, Inc.'s (Bridgestone/Firestone) Defect Information Report dated August 16, 2000 submitted in accordance with 49 CFR Part 573, "Defect and Noncompliance Reports." This recall involves 14.4 million Firestone Wilderness AT, tire size P235/75R15, produced at the Decatur, Illinois tire plant and all Firestone Radial ATX and Radial ATX II tires, size P235/75R15. Operation of these tires at low inflation pressures, high speed, and in hot weather, can contribute to separation of the tire tread. *The assigned NHTSA identification number for this campaign is 00T-005.*

**Bridgestone/Firestone is responsible for the remedy of these tires from this date forward, regardless of age or ownership.**

**NOTIFICATION TO PURCHASERS:**

We have reviewed your proposed owner/dealer notification letters and envelop and it meets the requirements of Part 577. Please provide us with a final version of the owner letter when it becomes available.

**Quarterly Status Reports**

As stated in Part 573.6, 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. The current calendar quarter began on April 1 and ends on June 30, 2000. As it is our understanding that Bridgestone/Firestone will begin owner notification on August 26, 2000. Therefore, Bridgestone/Firestone's first quarterly report will be due on or before October 30, 2000.

The following chart provides due dates for each of the six quarterly reports.

<b><u>QUARTER</u></b>	<b><u>QUARTER BEGINS</u></b>	<b><u>QUARTER ENDS</u></b>	<b><u>DUE DATE</u></b>
1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter	July 1, 2000	September 30, 2000	October 30, 2000
2 <sup>nd</sup> Quarter	October 1, 2000	December 31, 2000	January 30, 2001
3 <sup>rd</sup> Quarter	January 1, 2001	March 31, 2001	April 30, 2001
4 <sup>th</sup> Quarter	April 1, 2001	June 30, 2001	July 30, 2001
5 <sup>th</sup> Quarter	July 1, 2001	September 30, 2001	October 30, 2001
6 <sup>th</sup> Quarter	October 1, 2001	December 31, 2001	January 30, 2002

### **Recall Communications**

Communications pertaining to safety recalls and issued by Bridgestone/Firestone to more than one distributor, dealer, purchaser, or owner are to be submitted to this office within 5 days of issuance as described under 49 CFR Part 573.5(c)(9). Where this information is sent over a period time, the communications are to be submitted within 5 days from the date the communications were first sent, and furnish the date, or range of dates, each communication was issued. This includes information transmitted by computer, telefax, or other electronic means; and initial or interim communications. All copies are to be in readable form and a written transcript should be provided for each non-written communication. Also, if the communication was not nationally and uniformly distributed, then identify the criteria used for the distribution.

### **Manufacturer Communications**

Part 573.8, "Notices, Bulletins and Other Communications," requires that every motor vehicle or motor vehicle equipment manufacturer shall furnish a copy of **all notices, bulletins, and other communications (including warranty and policy extension communiques and product improvement bulletins)** to manufacturers, distributors, dealers, or purchasers, regarding any defect in its vehicle or items of equipment (including any failure or malfunction beyond normal deterioration in use, any failure of performance, or any flaw or unintended deviation from design specifications), **whether or not such defect is safety related**. These notices or communications are to be submitted, regardless of the media used to transmit the information. Where communications are made orally or electronically, provide a transcript. In all other cases, provide the information in the media form used to transmit the information. On a case by case basis, we may require written transcripts of this material as well. Copies are to be submitted monthly, not more than 5 working days after the end of each month.

If you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Kelly Schuler at (202) 366-5227 or fax at (202) 366-7882.

Sincerely,

J51

Jonathan D. White, Chief  
Recall Analysis Division  
Office of Defects Investigation  
Safety Assurance