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12T-003
(3 pages)

The Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company
Akron, Ohio 44316 - 0001

February 22, 2012

Via email and FEDEX

Ms. Nancy Lewis
Associate Administrator for Enforcement
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
Attn: Recall Management Division (NVS-215)
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

Subject: Part 573 Defect and Noncompliance Report

Dear Ms. Lewis,

This notice is being sent to you in accordance with the requirements of the 49 CFR 573.6. The Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company is conducting a voluntary recall of 40,915 tires.

Sincerely,



D E Stanley
Vice President
Product Quality & Plant Technology

Attachment

Part 573 Report

573.6 (c) (1)

Manufacturer's Name:

The Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company
1144 East Market St
Akron, Ohio 44316

Corporate official, by name and title, whom the agency should contact with respect to this notification and person preparing this report:

Simeon S. Ford,
Manager, Global Regulations, Standards & Compliance
1144 E Market St.
Akron, Ohio 44316
Telephone: 330-796-3519
Fax: 330-796-3049

573.6 (c) (2)

Tires potentially containing the defect or noncompliance:

Six sizes of Goodyear Wrangler Silent Armor tires produced from March through May 2009

<u>Size</u>		<u>DOT serial code (Tire identification numbers)</u>
LT325/60R18 LRE	Wrangler Silent Armor	PJ0UY5HV0909 through PJ0UY5HV2209
LT235/80R17 LRE	Wrangler Silent Armor	PJAB35HV0909 through PJAB35HV2209
LT245/75R17 LRE	Wrangler Silent Armor	PJ4335HV0909 through PJ4335HV2209
LT275/70R18 LRE	Wrangler Silent Armor	PJ1535HV0909 through PJ1535HV2209
LT265/70R17 LRE	Wrangler Silent Armor	PJAH35HV0909 through PJAH35HV2209
LT285/70R17 LRD	Wrangler Silent Armor	PJLHL6HV0909 through PJLHL6HV2209

Manufacturing plant: Fayetteville, NC

This recall population was determined through analysis of warranty adjustment and property damage claims data.

573.6 (c) (3)

Total number of tires potentially containing the defect or noncompliance:

<u>Tire Size</u>	<u>QTY</u>
LT235/80R17 LRE	5,845
LT325/60R18 LRE	1,185
LT275/70R18 LRE	11,551
LT265/70R17 LRE	10,316
LT245/75R17 LRE	4,108
LT285/70R17 LRD	7,210
TOTAL Produced:	40,915

573.6 (c) (4)

Approximate percentage of tires estimated to actually contain the defect or noncompliance:

We estimate a small percentage of these tires may be affected.

573.6 (c) (5)**Description of the defect or noncompliance:**

A small number of tires within this population may experience a partial tread area separation under certain severe usage conditions. Use of these tires in severe conditions could result in partial tread separation which could lead to vehicle damage or a motor vehicle crash.

573.6 (c) (6)**Chronology of events:**

In May 2010 during review of its early warning data, Goodyear observed slightly increased levels of warranty returns and property damage claims for these tires. Goodyear inspected some of the returned tires and observed stone drilling damage and other external damage to the tires. At that time, Goodyear did not identify any safety issue with these tires.

Throughout 2010 and into 2011, Goodyear continued to monitor its early warning data for these tires. An increased level of warranty returns and property damage claims for these tires continued to be observed. As of approximately May 2011, it appeared that the warranty returns and property damage claims were elevated for these six sizes of tires for production from the months of March through May of 2009.

Goodyear continued to monitor this early warning data for the first three quarters of 2011 and conducted inspections of several returned tires, but found no safety issue with these tires.

In the third quarter of 2011, Goodyear received one injury claim involving one of these tires. Goodyear obtained the tire which was the subject of that injury claim in December 2011 and performed an inspection. The inspection revealed that the tire sustained damage due to stone drilling as well as other external road hazard damage. Goodyear still found no safety issues with these tires, but determined, in the interest of customer satisfaction, to conduct a customer satisfaction campaign for these tires in January 2012.

After further discussion with the regulatory agencies, and based on the analysis of all the early warning data, Goodyear determined on February 16, 2012 that it would conduct a voluntary recall of these tires.

573.6 (c) (8)(i)**Remedy Program:**

- Customers that have purchased these tires will be notified of this action no later than March 22, 2012.
- All of these recalled tires, identified within this specific date range, will be replaced with similar tires at no charge to the consumer.
- The notification letters will be sent to NHTSA for review and approval prior to being mailed.
- Replacement tires are available for consumers.
- All recalled tires returned to Goodyear will be shredded by our recycler and used for various recycling purposes.
- Consumers who may have previously received an adjustment on any of the recall population tires will be offered reimbursement for any pro-rated costs they incurred.

573.6 (c) (9)

Goodyear will provide notification to its distributors, dealers, etc., of their responsibilities in accordance with section 573.6 (c)(9) requirements.