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12T-020  
(3 pages)



# KUMHO TIRES

KUMHO TIRE U.S.A., INC.  
10299 Sixth Street  
Rancho Cucamonga, CA 91730  
Tel.: (909) 428-3999  
Fax: (909) 428-3989

August 1, 2012

**VIA EMAIL (rmd.odi@dot.gov) AND FEDERAL EXPRESS**

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

**Re: Part 573 Defect and Noncompliance Report**

Dear Ms. Lewis:

Pursuant to the requirements of 49 C.F.R. Part 573, Kumho Tire U.S.A., Inc. submits the following report related to the voluntary recall of 40,769 manufactured by Vietnam Kumho Tire Co., Ltd.

**573.6 (c)(1) Name of Manufacturer:**

Vietnam Kumho Tire Co., Ltd.

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

C.H. Kim  
V.P. Quality & Service  
Kumho Tire U.S.A., Inc.  
10299 6<sup>th</sup> St.  
Rancho Cucamonga, CA 91730  
Telephone: 909-428-3341 or 909-428-3358  
Fax No.: 909-428-3995

**573.6 (c)(2)(iii) Identification of Recalled Tires**

The recall involves KUMHO SOLUS KH25 passenger car tires, size 225/45R17. The recalled tire information is set forth in the table below:



Tire Size	Load Index & Speed Rating	Pattern	Load Range	Serial	Manufacture Date
225/45R17	91/H	KH25	B	K2X5YAL8	3411 – 2512

**573.6 (c)(3) Total Number of Tires Potentially Containing the Defect**

The total number of tires being recalled is 40,769 tires. Of the 40,769 tires, 39,531 tires are on hold and allocated in Kumho Tire warehouses. The number of tires distributed to Kumho Tire dealers are as follows:

<u>Number of Items Potentially Involved</u>	<u>Number of Items on Hold and Allocated</u>	<u>Number of Items Sold to Customers</u>
1,238	1,116	122

**573.6 (c)(4) Approximate Percentage of Tires Estimated to Actually Contain the Defect or Noncompliance**

Up to 100% of the 40,769 tires could be affected by the recall. However, only 0.004% of the population of the recalled tires described herein has exhibited the service issue to date. This equates to two (2) tires.

**573.6 (c)(5) Description of the Defect or Noncompliance**

The tires subject to the recall may have the possibility of developing cracking in the sidewall, which could result in air loss.

**573.6 (c)(6) Chronology of Principal Events**

During the 24<sup>th</sup> week of June 2012, two tires were returned to Kumho Tire for analysis as they exhibited cracking in the sidewall. Kumho Tire’s investigation showed that based on the tire’s design specification, under certain circumstances, the subject tires may have the possibility of developing a crack in the sidewall.

On August 1, 2012, based upon the foregoing testing and analysis, Kumho Tire decided to commence a voluntary recall of the subject tires out of an abundance of caution.

There have been no reports of any warranty claim, accident, injury or death regarding the tires recalled related to its reported condition.

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

Kumho Tire USA will initiate a voluntary recall of the subject tires. We have identified 122 tires that have been sold to customers. These customers will be contacted by first class mail beginning the week of August 5<sup>th</sup>, 2012. We will also issue a notification to our dealers to return the affected tires and to contact their customers who purchased the affected tires. The notifications will explain the issue and include specific instructions as to how to obtain replacement products.

The remaining 40,647 in the specified DOT date ranges that have been on hold and allocated will be scrapped. The tires that are returned will also be scrapped.

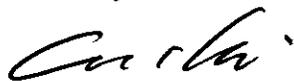
**573.6 (c)(9) Disposition of Recalled Tires**

Dealers performing the tire inspection and tire replacement service will be notified of their duties and responsibilities in accordance with the provisions of 49 CFR Part 573.6(c)(9).

**573.6 (c)(10) Notification**

Kumho Tire USA will begin notifying its dealer and respective owners after we receive NHTSA's assigned unique safety recall identification number. At that time, we will submit our proposed owner notification letter for your review - in accordance with 49 CFR Part 577 - and proceed accordingly.

Sincerely,



C.H. Kim  
V.P. Quality & Service