



11 December 2013

Associate Administrator for Enforcement  
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration  
Attention: Recall Management Division NVS-215  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE.,  
Washington, DC 20590

Attn : Ms. Nancy L. Lewis  
NHTSA NVS-200

**Re: Part 573 Defect Information Report**

Pursuant to the requirements of 49 C.F.R. Part 573, Michelin North America (MNA) submits the following report related to certain tires manufactured under Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards FMVSS139.

Pursuant to 49 C.F.R. § 573, MNA reports the following :

573.6(c)(1) Name of Manufacturer:

Michelin North America, Inc.

573.6(c)(2)(iii) Items Potentially Containing the Defect:

The tires described below have been identified as potentially containing a defect.

**LT225/75 R16 115/112R LRE Michelin LTX M/S**  
DOT TIN B3JHAKEX and DOT date range 0210 thru 2512.

This specific tire was only produced during the above date range, and supplied for both original equipment [Ford] and replacement use.

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

Approximately 1.3 million tires produced in our Bridgewater, Nova Scotia (Canada) plant are involved, of which approximately 1.2 million tires have been sold on the US market.

573.6 (c)(4) Percentage of Tires Estimated to Actually Exhibit the Defect:

Up to 100% of the described tires could be affected during service. As of November 20, 2013, approximately 0.015 % of the total U.S. market population has exhibited a loss of tread or rapid air loss condition. This represents less than 200 tires.

573.6(c)(5) Description of the Defect

Tires of the DOT date range identified have the possibility of developing a tread separation, often evidenced by a ride vibration or irregular wear. In some circumstances this condition could lead to a loss of tread, and in some cases rapid air loss, risking a loss of vehicle control or a vehicle crash.

573.6(c)(6) Basis For Determination of the Defect:

Several instances of tread/belt endurance issues (exhibited as ride vibrations, irregular wear, tread loss, or rapid air loss) were observed for the subject tire in the third quarter of 2013.

An analysis of warranty data of the subject tire showed an increased rate of return leading to a 4 December 2013 determination of defect requiring market action.

Further, while MNA has received property damage claims related to the subject tires (approximately 20), no death or injury claims have been recorded.

The subject tires are typically used on such vehicles as commercial light trucks, full-sized heavy duty vans, small RVs and some large pickup trucks.

573.6(c)(8) Remedy Program:

MNA will initiate a safety recall of the subject tire. The registered owners that purchased tires of the specified date range will be contacted by first class mail beginning no later than the week of 6 January 2014. This owner letter, approved by NHTSA, will explain the issue, and include specific instructions as to how to obtain replacement products, as well as procedures for collecting reimbursement for remedies made prior to the recall, where appropriate.

Owners may call Michelin Consumer Care Monday – Friday from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. EST, or Saturday and Sunday from 8:30am to 4:30pm EST at the following numbers:  
USA: 800-231-5893 (language options: English and Spanish)

Owners may also obtain information via the Michelin web site:  
USA: [www.michelinman.com/safetyrecall](http://www.michelinman.com/safetyrecall)

All tires containing the defect will be scrapped.

#### 573.6(c)(9) Disposition of Scrapped Recall Tires

In accordance with the provisions of 49 CFR Part 573.6(c)(9)(i-iii), MNA will make dealers aware of the requirements that become effective in connection with the disposition of all recalled tires through a Dealer Notification letter that will be submitted to the agency separately pursuant to 49 CFR Part 573.6(c)(10). The program for disposing of all scrap tires identified under this safety recall will comply with applicable state and local law regarding the disposal of tires, and to the extent possible, will be channeled into a category of positive reuse or beneficial non-vehicular reuse.

#### 573.6(c)(10) Owner Notification

A draft of MNA's tire owner notification letter will be forthcoming, for NHTSA's approval.

A copy of the dealer communication will also be provided.