

**Part 573 Safety Recall Report****14T-012****Manufacturer Name :** Continental Tire the Americas, LLC.**Submission Date :** OCT 06,2014**NHTSA Recall No. :** 14T-012**Manufacturer Recall No. :** NR**Manufacturer Information :**

Manufacturer Name : Continental Tire the Americas, LLC.

Address : 1830 Macmillan Park Drive

Fort Mill SC 29707

Company phone : 704-583-4882

**Population :**

Number of potentially involved : 5,993

Estimated percentage with defect : 19

**Tire Information :**

Tire Brand : CONTINENTAL

Tire Line : PROCONTACT GX SSR MOE

Tire Size : 225/45R18 95H XL

Descriptive Information : Passenger car, all season tire fitted on front axle on certain model year 2015 Mercedes Benz C-Class vehicles. Less than 100 tires were also sold in the Replacement Market.

Production Dates : JUN 22, 2014 - JUL 28, 2014

**TIN (Tire Identification Number)**

Plant ID	Size code	OptionalCode	Begin M Code:	End M Code
A3	4F	WBJR	2514	3014

**Description of Defect :**

Description of the Defect : Affected tires were deformed during the curing process by mold segments in the curing press which were not fully extended. This malfunction in the curing press may result in an undefined condition, causing some tires to exhibit a visual tread distortion when inflated.

Description of the Safety Risk : Notably, Continental Tire the Americas, LLC ("CTA") has not received notice of a tire failure for any condition for this tire. Specific potential failure modes are unknown, however, it is possible that an affected tire could fail in a manner that may lead to a loss of control and result in an accident and personal injury.

Description of the Cause : The condition was caused by an intermittent malfunction of one curing press.

Identification of Any Warning that can Occur : It is possible that affected tires may exhibit vibration and/or noise. It is also possible that the directional stability of the vehicle may be affected.

**Supplier Identification :****Component Manufacturer**

Name : NR

Address : NR

NR

Country : NR

**Chronology :**

In late July 2014, CTA's final processing identified tires that showed abnormalities, which were segregated. This led to an inspection of the curing presses and on July 28, 2014, one curing press (mold number 410918) was found to experience an intermittent malfunction. CTA corrected the malfunction on the same day.

On Aug.19, 2014, Mercedes Benz - US International ("MBUSI") contacted CTA and advised that it had identified one tire that appeared to exhibit a step-off condition between the outer and inner tread lugs when mounted and inflated. CTA requested that MBUSI ship the tire back to CTA so that it could conduct an inspection of the tire.

On Aug.29, 2014, CTA received the tire from MBUSI and began a non-destructive inspection.

On Sept.4, 2014, CTA performed a cross-sectioning of the tire and the sections were shipped to CTA's technical center for evaluation. A preliminary analysis determined that up to 12 tires were potentially affected and may have been cured and warehoused during the weekend of July 26.

On Sept.10, 2014, CTA contained tires at the Tire and Wheel assembly facility (Astra) which supplies to MBUSI. Additional tires were identified by MBUSI already fitted to vehicles, resulting in a total of 14 tires that were contained by visual inspection. CTA requested that those tires be shipped back to CTA so that further analysis could be conducted. The range of potentially affected tires was extended to at least 116 tires from DOT production weeks 2914 and 3014.

On Sept.16, 2014, CTA received 13 of those tires that were contained the previous week. Tires with the condition were sent to CTA's technical center for analysis.

On Sept.24, 2014, CTA was granted access to MBUSI's vehicle yard so that CTA could inspect tires. During this inspection, CTA identified potentially affected tires from production weeks 2614, 2714, 2914, and 3014.

On Sept.29, 2014, based upon the analysis of inspected tires, CTA made the decision to initiate this recall.

**Description of Remedy :**

Description of Remedy Program : CTA will conduct a safety recall campaign to replace the subject tires that have been sold, either as original equipment tires, replacement tires, or are in dealer inventories. All known customers, distributors, dealers and independent outlets will receive notification of the campaign, instructions on how to identify the subject tires, information regarding removal of the subject tires from service, and instructions on the return/disposal of affected tires. CTA will offer to reimburse the replacement cost for any customer who, prior to this campaign, replaced these tires due to the condition described above. CTA will provide a draft reimbursement form to NHTSA's Recalls Portal.

How Remedy Component Differs from Recalled Component : The intermittent malfunction of the curing press has been identified and repaired. Tires that will be supplied to customers for the remedy are all produced after the curing press repair.

Identify How/When Recall Condition was Corrected in Production : The intermittent malfunction of the single curing press was identified and repaired on July 28, 2014. CTA also conducted an inspection of the other curing presses used to cure this tire to ensure this was not occurring in the other curing presses.

**Recall Schedule :**

Description of Recall Schedule : CTA will notify distributors, as well as all independent outlets that are authorized to replace the tires that are the subject of this recall, of their responsibilities in accordance with Section 573.6(c) (9). Distributors and outlets will be instructed to return affected tires to CTA for disposal.

Planned Dealer Notification Date : NR - NR

Planned Owner Notification Date : NR - NR

**Purchaser Information :**

The following manufacturers purchased this defective/noncompliant equipment for possible use or installation in new motor vehicles or new items of motor vehicle equipment:

Name : Mercedes Benz - US International, Inc.

Address : 1 Mercedes Drive  
Vance AL 35490

Country : US

Company Phone : NR

\* NR - Not Reported