



U.S. Department
of Transportation
**National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration**

1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

March 17, 2011

MR. DONALD CRAWFORD
QUALITY MANAGEMENT
CONTINENTAL TIRE THE AMERICAS, LLC
1830 MACMILLAN PARK DRIVE
FORT MILL, SC 29707

NVS-215kjs
11T-002

SUBJECT: TREAD BELT SEPARATION

DEAR MR. CRAWFORD:

This letter serves to acknowledge Continental Tire The Americas, LLC's (Continental Tire) notification to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) of a safety recall campaign which will be conducted pursuant to Federal law for the tires listed below.

Please review the following information to ensure that it conforms to your records as this information is being made available to the public. If the information does not agree with your records, please contact us immediately to discuss your concerns.

Tires/Tire Brands/Tire Sizes:

CONTINENTAL/CONTITRAC/LT275/70R18 125/122S
CONTINENTAL/CONTITRAC TR BSW/LT275/70R18 125/122S
CONTINENTAL/CONTITRAC TR OWL/LT275/70R18 125/122S
FORD/F-250/2008-2009
FORD/F-350/2008-2009

NHTSA Campaign Number: 11T-002 **Mfg's Report Date:** March 14, 2011

Components: TIRES:TREAD/BELT

Potential Number of Units Affected: 390,657

Summary:

CONTINENTAL TIRE IS RECALLING CERTAIN CONTITRAC TR TIRES, SIZE LT275/70R18 125/122S OUTLINE WHITE LETTERS AND BLACK SIDEWALL, AND CONTITRAC, SIZE LT275/70R18 125/122S, BLACK SIDEWALL, PRODUCED FROM MAY 6, 2007, THROUGH SEPTEMBER 20, 2008, SOLD AS AFTERMARKET AND INSTALLED AS ORIGINAL EQUIPMENT ON SOME MODEL YEAR 2008 AND 2009

FORD F-250 AND F-350 TRUCKS. SOME OF THESE TIRES MAY EXPERIENCE UNEVEN WEAR, VIBRATION, OR PARTICULARLY UNDER CONDITIONS OF OVERLOADING OR UNDER INFLATION IN HIGH AMBIENT TEMPERATURE USAGE, SEPARATION BETWEEN THE BELT EDGES.

Consequence:

SEPARATION OF THE BELT EDGES COULD LEAD TO TREAD BELT SEPARATION, INCREASING THE RISK OF A CRASH.

Remedy:

CONTINENTAL TIRE WILL NOTIFY OWNERS AND REPLACE THE AFFECTED TIRES FREE OF CHARGE. THE SAFETY RECALL IS EXPECTED TO BEGIN DURING MARCH 2011. OWNERS MAY CONTACT CONTINENTAL CUSTOMER SERVICE TOLL-FREE AT 1-888-799-2168.

Notes:

CUSTOMERS MAY CONTACT THE NATIONAL HIGHWAY TRAFFIC SAFETY ADMINISTRATION'S VEHICLE SAFETY HOTLINE AT 1-888-327-4236 (TTY: 1-800-424-9153); OR GO TO [HTTP://WWW.SAFERCAR.GOV](http://www.safercar.gov).

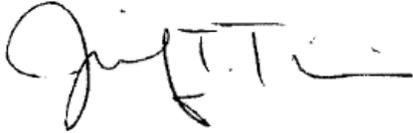
We have reviewed the information you provided in your defect information report and pursuant to 49 CFR 573.6. The chronology of events leading up to your decision is not adequate. Although you do provide some information as to the date of receipt of one, recent, claim, information concerning the other claims and data preceding your defect decision is missing. In accordance with the regulation, please provide a chronology of all principal events that were the basis for the determination that the defect related to motor vehicle safety, including a summary of all warranty claims, field or service reports, and other information, with their dates of receipt.

Please provide the following additional information and be reminded of the following requirements:

You are required to submit a draft owner notification letter to this office no less than five days prior to mailing it to the customers. Also, copies of all notices, bulletins, dealer notifications, and other communications that relate to this recall, including a copy of the final owner notification letter and any subsequent owner follow-up notification letter(s), are required to be submitted to this office no later than 5 days after they are originally sent (if they are sent to more than one manufacturer, distributor, dealer, or purchaser/owner).

Your contact for this recall will be Kelly Schuler, who may be reached by phone at 202-366-5227, by email at Kelly.Schuler@dot.gov, or through the office email at RMD.ODI@dot.gov. We look forward to working with you for successful completion of this recall campaign.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jennifer Timian". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Jennifer Timian
Chief, Recall Management Division
Office of Defects Investigation
Enforcement