

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

[Docket No. NHTSA 2003-16463; Notice 2]

Hankook Tire America Corp., Grant of Petition for Decision of Inconsequential Noncompliance

Hankook Tire America Corp. (Hankook Tire) has determined that certain tires it produced in 2003 do not comply with S4.3(e) of 49 CFR 571.109, Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard (FMVSS) No. 109, New pneumatic tires. Pursuant to 49 U.S.C. 30118(d) and 30120(h), Hankook Tire has petitioned for a determination that this noncompliance is inconsequential to motor vehicle safety and has filed an appropriate report pursuant to 49 CFR Part 573, "Defect and Noncompliance Reports." Notice of receipt of the petition was published, with a 30-day comment period, on December 3, 2003, in the **Federal Register** (68 FR 67739). NHTSA received no comments.

A total of approximately 3,049 tires are involved. These are 215/50R 17 91H 04PR H405 tires, which Hankook Tire produced during DOT weeks 16 through 21 and DOT weeks 24 and 25 of the year 2003. They have the nylon ply number mismarked on one side of the tire, specifically on the DOT serial side. The incorrect marking on the DOT serial side is "2 steel + 2 polyester + 2 nylon" and the correct marking on the opposite side is "2 steel + 2 polyester + 1 nylon." Paragraph S4.3 of FMVSS No. 109 requires "each tire shall have permanently molded into or onto both sidewalls * * * (e) Actual number of plies in the sidewall, and the actual number of plies in the tread area if different."

Hankook Tire believes that the noncompliance is inconsequential to motor vehicle safety, and that no corrective action is warranted. The petitioner states that first, the affected tires meet all requirements of 49 CFR 571.109 except for the markings pertaining to S4.3(e), and second, the markings on the side of the tire opposite the DOT serial side are correct.

The agency agrees with Hankook Tire's statement that the incorrect markings do not present a serious safety concern. The agency believes that the true measure of inconsequentiality to motor vehicle safety in this case is that there is no effect of the noncompliance on the operational safety of vehicles on which these tires are mounted. The safety of people working in the tire retread, repair, and recycling industries must also be considered.

Although tire construction affects the strength and durability, neither the agency nor the tire industry provides information relating tire strength and durability to the number of plies and types of ply cord material in the tread and sidewall. Therefore, tire dealers and customers should consider the tire construction information along with other information such as the load capacity, maximum inflation pressure, and tread wear, temperature, and traction ratings, to assess performance capabilities of various tires. In the agency's judgment, the incorrect labeling of the tire construction information will have an inconsequential effect on motor vehicle safety because most consumers do not base tire purchases or vehicle operation parameters on the number of plies in the tire.

The agency believes the noncompliance will have no measurable effect on the safety of the tire retread, repair, and recycling industries. The use of steel cord construction in the sidewall and tread is the primary safety concern of these industries. In this case, the steel used in the construction of the tires is properly labeled.

In addition, the tires are certified to meet all the performance requirements of FMVSS No. 109. Also, the markings on the side of the tire opposite the DOT serial side are correct. All other informational markings as required by FMVSS No. 109 are present. Hankook Tire has corrected the problem.

In consideration of the foregoing, NHTSA has decided that the petitioner has met its burden of persuasion that the noncompliance described is inconsequential to motor vehicle safety. Accordingly, Hankook Tire's petition is granted and the petitioner is exempted from the obligation of providing notification of, and a remedy for, the noncompliance.

Authority: (49 U.S.C. 30118, 30120; delegations of authority at CFR 1.50 and 501.8)

Kenneth N. Weinstein,

Associate Administrator for Enforcement.
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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

[Docket No. NHTSA-2003-16656; Notice 2]

Hyundai America Technical Center, Inc., Grant of Petition for Decision of Inconsequential Noncompliance

Hyundai America Technical Center, Inc. (Hyundai), has determined that the rims on certain vehicles that it produced in 2000 through 2003 do not comply with S5.2(a) and S5.2(c) of 49 CFR 571.120, Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard (FMVSS) No. 120, "Tire selection and rims for motor vehicles other than passenger cars." Pursuant to 49 U.S.C. 30118(d) and 30120(h), Hyundai has petitioned for an exemption from the notification and remedy requirements of 49 U.S.C. chapter 301 on the basis that this noncompliance is inconsequential to motor vehicle safety. Notice of receipt of Hyundai's petition was published, with a 30 day comment period, on December 15, 2003, in the **Federal Register** (68 FR 69768). NHTSA received no comments.

S5.2 of FMVSS 120 requires that each rim be marked with certain information on the weather side, including S5.2(a): A designation which indicates the source of the rim's published nominal dimensions, and S5.2(c): the symbol DOT. Hyundai produced approximately 250,348 model year 2001, 2002, 2003 and 2004 Hyundai Santa Fe 4 door multipurpose passenger vehicles between March 31, 2000 and October 1, 2003, with rims that do not contain the markings required by S5.2(a) or S5.2(c).

According to Hyundai, the affected rims, 6.5J x 16" aluminum alloy, are commonly available and utilized in the United States. They are a correct specification for mounting the P225/70R16 tires specified for all Santa Fe models, and are capable of carrying the GVWR of the vehicle. Hyundai states that no accidents or injuries have occurred, and no customer complaints have been received, related to the lack of the markings or any problem that may have resulted from the lack of the markings. Hyundai further states that the missing markings do not affect the performance of the wheels or the tire and wheel assemblies.

NHTSA agrees that the noncompliance is inconsequential to motor vehicle safety. The rims are marked in compliance with S5.2(b) rim size designation; S5.2(d) manufacturer identification; and S5.2(e) month, day and year or month and year of manufacture. The rims are also marked with the Hyundai part number. The tire

size is marked on the tire sidewalls, and the owner's manual and tire inflation pressure label contain the appropriate tire size to be installed on the original equipment rims. Therefore, there is little likelihood of a tire and rim mismatch as a result of the missing rim markings. With regard to the omission of the "DOT" symbol, the agency regards the noncompliance with paragraph S5.2(c) as a failure to comply with the certification requirements of 49 U.S.C. 30115, and not a compliance failure requiring notification and remedy.

In consideration of the foregoing, NHTSA has decided that the petitioner has met its burden of persuasion that the noncompliance described is inconsequential to motor vehicle safety. Accordingly, Hyundai's petition is granted and the petitioner is exempted from the obligation of providing notification of, and a remedy for, the noncompliance.

Authority: 49 U.S.C. 30118, 30120; delegations of authority at CFR 1.50 and 501.8.

Kenneth N. Weinstein,

Associate Administrator for Enforcement.

[FR Doc. 04-5743 Filed 3-12-04; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

[Docket No. NHTSA 2003-16699; Notice 2]

Michelin North America, Inc., Grant of Petition for Decision of Inconsequential Noncompliance

Michelin North America, Inc. (Michelin), has determined that certain tires it manufactured do not comply with S4.3(d) of 49 CFR 571.109, Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard (FMVSS) No. 109, "New pneumatic tires." Pursuant to 49 U.S.C. 30118(d) and 30120(h), Michelin has petitioned for a determination that this noncompliance is inconsequential to motor vehicle safety and has filed an appropriate report pursuant to 49 CFR part 573, "Defect and Noncompliance Reports." Notice of receipt of the petition was published, with a 30 day comment period, on December 22, 2003, in the **Federal Register** (68 FR 71222). NHTSA received no comments.

Michelin produced approximately 8,568 Michelin Pilot XGT H4 tires, size P195/65R15, whose sidewall labeling, on one side of the tire only, incorrectly describes the generic name of the cord material in one of the plies in the tread area. These tires were marked on one

side as "Tread plies: 1 polyester + 1 polyamide/steel + 2 steel. Sidewall plies: 1 polyester." The correct marking is "Tread plies: 1 polyester + 1 polyamide + 2 steel. Sidewall plies: 1 polyester." The like marking on the opposite sidewall is correct in all respects. Therefore, they do not comply with FMVSS No. 109 S4.3(d), which requires that "each tire shall have permanently molded into or onto both sidewalls * * * (d) The generic name of each cord material used in the plies (both sidewall and tread area) of the tire."

Michelin believes that this noncompliance is inconsequential to motor vehicle safety. It asserts that in all other respects, the tires meet or exceed the requirements of FMVSS No. 109, including all of the performance requirements. It further asserts that the noncompliance with S4.3(d) will have no impact on the performance of the tire on a motor vehicle, or upon motor vehicle safety.

The agency agrees with Michelin's statement that the incorrect markings do not present a serious safety concern. The agency believes that the true measure of inconsequentiality to motor vehicle safety in this case is that there is no effect of the noncompliance on the operational safety of vehicles on which these tires are mounted.

Although tire construction affects the strength and durability, neither the agency nor the tire industry provides information relating tire strength and durability to the number of plies and types of ply cord material in the tread and sidewall. Therefore, tire dealers and customers should consider the tire construction information along with other information such as the load capacity, maximum inflation pressure, and tread wear, temperature, and traction ratings, to assess performance capabilities of various tires. In the agency's judgment, the incorrect labeling of the tire construction information will have an inconsequential effect on motor vehicle safety because most consumers do not base tire purchases or vehicle operation parameters on tire cord material.

The safety of people working in the tire retread, repair, and recycling industries must also be considered. The agency believes the noncompliance will have no measurable effect on the safety of the tire retread, repair, and recycling industries. The primary safety concern of these industries is whether or not steel cord construction is used in the sidewall and tread of the tires. In this case, the labeling on both sides of the tire correctly indicates that steel is used in the construction of the tires.

In addition, the tires are certified to meet all the performance requirements of FMVSS No. 109. Also, the markings on one side of the tire are correct. All other informational markings as required by FMVSS No. 109 are present. Michelin has corrected the problem.

In consideration of the foregoing, NHTSA has decided that the petitioner has met its burden of persuasion that the noncompliance described is inconsequential to motor vehicle safety. Accordingly, Michelin's petition is granted and the petitioner is exempted from the obligation of providing notification of, and a remedy for, the noncompliance.

Authority: 49 U.S.C. 30118, 30120; delegations of authority at CFR 1.50 and 501.8.

Kenneth N. Weinstein,

Associate Administrator for Enforcement.

[FR Doc. 04-5742 Filed 3-12-04; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Internal Revenue Service

[PS-25-94]

Proposed Collection; Comment Request for Regulation Project

AGENCY: Internal Revenue Service (IRS), Treasury.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Department of the Treasury, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, invites the general public and other Federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on proposed and/or continuing information collections, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104-13 (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)). Currently, the IRS is soliciting comments concerning an existing final regulation, PS-25-94 (T.D. 8686), Requirements to Ensure Collection of Section 2056A Estate Tax (§ 20.2056A-2).

DATES: Written comments should be received on or before May 14, 2004 to be assured of consideration.

ADDRESSES: Direct all written comments to Glenn Kirkland, Internal Revenue Service, room 6411, 1111 Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20224.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional information or copies of the regulations should be directed to Larnice Mack at Internal Revenue Service, room 6407, 1111