



Bridgestone Americas Tire Operations, LLC  
535 Marriott Drive  
Nashville, TN USA 37214

January 29, 2016

**IMPORTANT SAFETY RECALL**

Dear Firestone Authorized Dealer:

This notice is sent to you in accordance with the requirements of the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act.

Bridgestone Americas Tire Operations, LLC (“BATO”) has decided that a defect which relates to motor vehicle safety exists in certain Firestone FS561 255/70R22.5 tires installed in the trailer application and has initiated a voluntary recall. These tires were sold in the replacement market in the United States and Canada beginning in April 2015.

You are receiving this letter because BATO records indicate that you have purchased tires that may be the subject of this safety recall. Further, BATO is required to advise you of certain tire dealer obligations, which are detailed on pages 2 through 4 of this notice.

**I. REASON FOR THE RECALL**

The subject tires, when used in the severe service trailer application, may experience scrubbing which may result in an increased risk of a tread separation and/or detachment, which could contribute to a vehicle crash without warning.

**II. TIRE REPLACEMENT PROGRAM**

Consistent with the company’s longstanding commitment to safety, customer satisfaction and service, owners of any FS561 tire installed in the trailer application that match the exact description of the pattern, size and Department of Transportation (“DOT”) serial number and production period range in the following table, and were installed on a trailer are urged to contact a Bridgestone dealer to arrange verification and replacement at no charge through July 31, 2016.

Article	Brand	Pattern	Size	DOT Serial	DOT Week
248528	Firestone	FS561	255/70R22.5	W1AB3P6	0515-0416

Any tire that is the subject of this recall will be replaced with a Firestone FS560 Plus 255/70R22.5 or Bridgestone R250 ED. Replacement tires are available as of January 29, 2016. In the event that a Bridgestone brand or Firestone brand tire is not currently available, a suitable competitive product may be used as a replacement tire. BATO will provide customers with a full refund in exchange for the tire(s) subject to this recall.

**III. ACTIONS REQUIRED BY DEALERS**

As a result of this safety recall and federal law, you are required to take the following actions:

**1) Returning Inventory (New/Never Mounted) Recalled Tires.**

Examine your tire inventory. Any tires that meet the above description and match the article number listed in the table above are subject to this recall and cannot be sold. To determine if you have received tires that are included in this recall, please check the DOT information found on the sidewall of the tire as explained in Appendix A.

If you have tires that meet the above description, immediately stop the sale. Immediately count your inventory of affected tires and record specific DOT identification numbers. Provide this information to BATO Commercial Customer Service Department at 1-855-389-3459 for and RGA (Return Goods Authorization) and to schedule the return.

Promptly return all recalled tires from your inventory to BATO as per company directions. You will be compensated for all recalled (new) tires that you return from inventory.

**2) Provide BATO the List of Owners of Recalled Tires**

Please check your sales records to determine if you have sold or leased any of the voluntary safety recall tires listed in the table above. If you find that you have sold or leased any of the voluntary safety recall tires, please send the following information for each customer to BATO so that the customer can be added to the voluntary safety recall mailing list:

Customer Name:	
Address (street, city, state zip code):	
Telephone:	
Date of Sale/Mounting:	
Quantity Sold/Mounted:	

Please send the customer information by:

Email: archualdavid@bfusa.com (Preferred Method)  
Subject Line should read: FS561 Safety Recall  
Fax: (615) 493-0495  
or Mail:

Bridgestone Americas Tire Operations, LLC  
FS561 Safety Recall  
Attention: Mr. David Archual  
535 Marriott Drive  
Nashville, TN 37214 USA

Customers who are identified as potential purchasers of the affected tires will be issued a letter requesting that the owner check all tires fitting the description above to determine if they are subject to the voluntary safety recall. If the customer is unable to determine whether the tires are part of this recall, the customer will be instructed to contact their authorized Bridgestone Firestone dealer or call BATO Technical Service 1-800-847-3272

### 3) **Replacement of Mounted Recalled Tires**

Customers who visit a commercial tire dealer in connection with this recall must have all tires inspected in order to determine whether the DOT serial numbers are an exact match as indicated above. Please make sure to check each tire closely. If the DOT serial numbers do not exactly match the description above and the tire is not installed in the trailer application, the tire is not part of the recall.

Any tire with DOT serial numbers exactly matching the DOT code range described above and installed in the trailer application is part of this recall and must be replaced immediately without charge (including mounting and balancing) to the customer. Use the normal Bridgestone/Firestone tire warranty adjustment procedures to replace tires under this voluntary safety recall. The tires will be processed as a no charge tire adjustment. Select "OTHER-RECALL" option on the ENTIRENET warranty adjustment screen as the reason for removal. Retailers who provide services to remove and replace the voluntary safety recall tires will be reimbursed at published Standard Service and Labor rates in effect at the time of replacement.

Dealers must secure the recalled tires and notify BATO for instructions. All Firestone FS561 255/70R22.5 tires removed from service under this program must be presented to BATO intact to allow BATO to complete the recall process in accordance with the tire warranty adjustment procedure and BATO to permanently disable the tires. If you have any questions, please contact BATO Technical Service 1-800-847-3272.

### 4) **Disposition of Safety Recall Tires**

BATO is required to advise you of the following information:

**IT IS A VIOLATION OF FEDERAL LAW FOR A DEALER TO SELL, LEASE, REUSE, OR RESELL A RECALLED TIRE.**

If a dealer knowingly sells or leases new or used recalled tires; the sale must be reported to the Associate Administrator for Safety Assurance, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E. Washington, DC 20590 or call the toll-free Auto Safety Hotline at 1-888-327-4236 (TTY 1-800-424-9153); or go to [www.safercar.gov](http://www.safercar.gov) within five working days of such a release to report the following information:

- 1) A statement that a report is being submitted pursuant to 49 CFR 573.10(a);

- 2) The name, address, and phone number of the person who purchased or leased the tire;
- 3) The name of the manufacturer of the tire;
- 4) The tire's brand name, model name, and size;
- 5) The tire DOT identification number;
- 6) The date of the sale or lease; and
- 7) The name, address, and telephone number of the seller or lessor.

These notifications and instructions must be communicated to all employees of this dealership who are involved in the inspection and removal of recalled tires.

### **III. BRIDGESTONE'S COMMITMENT**

We are committed to safety, customer satisfaction, and service. If you have any additional questions, please contact BATO Technical Service 1-800-847-3272 for further assistance.

We regret the inconvenience that this recall may cause you, but we are certain you will understand our commitment to the safety of your customers.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Bridgestone Americas Tire Operations, LLC

## APPENDIX A

### DESCRIPTION OF TIRES COVERED AND HOW TO IDENTIFY THEM

If you believe you may have one of these tires, please examine the sidewalls of your tires to see if any of them meet all of the following conditions:

- (1) The pattern is identified as “FS561”



- (2) The following size information is molded into the sidewall of the tire:  
255/70R22.5



- (3) The tire’s DOT serial number can be found on the sidewall just above the rim.  
The DOT serial number covered by this recall is: W1 AB 3P6 WWYY (where the “WW” indicates the week and the “YY” indicates the year of manufacture). In the example below, the DOT serial number ends with “0416,” which indicates this tire was made in the 4<sup>th</sup> week of 2016.



Any tires that meet the above descriptions are subject to this recall and should be replaced.