8 September 2016

Mark R. Rosekind, Ph.D.
Administrator
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE Room W42-300
Washington, DC 20590

NHTSA ID Number: 16T012

RE: Petition for a Finding of Inconsequential Noncompliance
Ref: 49 CFR Part 573 Report: 180/55ZR17 M/C (73W) Michelin Pilot Power 3

Dear Dr. Rosekind:

Pursuant to 49 U.S.C. § 30118(d) and 49 U.S.C. § 30120(h) and in accordance with the requirements of 49 C.F.R. Part 556, Michelin North America, Inc. ("MNA"), a New York Corporation, hereby requests exemption from the notification and remedy requirements of the Motor Vehicle Safety Act, 49 U.S.C., Chapter 301, with respect to a noncompliance with Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard (FMVSS) 119 - New Pneumatic Tires for Motor Vehicles with a GVWR of more than 4,536 kilograms (10,000 pounds) and motorcycles (49 C.F.R. Part 571.119).

This petition concerns a noncompliance of 184 tires, identified as 180/55ZR17 M/C (73W) Michelin Pilot Power 3, produced in a Michelin plant in Spain from 17 April 2016 to 7 May 2016 and sold in the United States. The subject tire does not comply with 49 C.F.R. 571.119 S6.5 (d). The tires were sold in the replacement market and primarily intended for street use on sport motorcycles.

Pursuant to 49 C.F.R. Part 573, MNA submitted a "Noncompliance Report" on 24 August 2016. MNA now submits this petition because it believes that this noncompliance is inconsequential as it relates to motor vehicle safety.

Basis of Non-compliance
As reported in MNA's referenced Part 573 Noncompliance Report, and mentioned immediately above, a total of 184 tires were released to the U.S. market with a sidewall marking that did not include the maximum load and corresponding inflation pressure for this load as prescribed in 49 C.F.R. 571.119 S6.5(d).

The mold insert containing this marking content was inadvertently omitted. The marking was immediately corrected upon discovery of the omission.

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Analysis - Inconsequential

A) Installation – The subject tires provide sidewall markings that include the correct industry standard tire size identified as "180/55ZR17 M/C", the service description identified as "(73W)" using an ISO load index and speed symbol, and the load range identified as Load Range "B". This properly and precisely identifies the tire for correct installation.

B) Inflation Pressure – The correct application pressures for the front and rear positions are identified on the motorcycle vehicle placard as required by 49 C.F.R. 567 and in the owner's manual, and these sources are referred to specifically in information published by NHTSA, motorcycle manufacturers, and tire manufacturers. The inflation pressures furnished by the motorcycle manufacturer via these two sources are the pressures that provide the load capacity and optimum ride and handling characteristics specific to the application. The sidewall marking is not cited as a source for the recommended operating inflation pressure.

   a. For example, NHTSA's online "Motorcycle Safety Tips" specifically refers to the owner's manual and vehicle placard: "*Look in your motorcycle owner's manual to find the right PSI (pounds per square inch) of air pressure for your tires. Some bike manufacturers also list this information on the bike itself. Common locations include the swing arm, front fork tubes, inside the trunk, and under the seat.*"

   b. Additionally, the Motorcycle Industry Council Tire Guide explains, "*Check the air pressure when the tires are cold...and adjust it according to your motorcycle owner's manual or the tire information label on the chain guard, frame, or swingarm.*"

   c. Similarly, Michelin's Professional Motorcycle Tire Guide 2016 states, "*Use the inflation pressure recommended by the motorcycle manufacturer…The proper inflation pressures for your motorcycle tires are shown in your motorcycle owner's manual.*"

   d. The applicable pressure is also a function of the maximum speed capability of the motorcycle, another reason that the proper source for tire inflation pressure is the motorcycle vehicle placard or owner's manual rather than the tire sidewall.

   e. Michelin's Professional Motorcycle Tire Guide 2016 and the Motorcycle Industry Tire Guide both advise not to exceed the pressure marked on the sidewall when setting a usage pressure. However, the recommended pressure on the motorcycle vehicle placard and the motorcycle owner's manual conforming to 49 C.F.R. 120 will never exceed the sidewall pressure for a properly fitted tire as described above in section "A" (Installation). The tire size, load index, speed symbol, and load range all provide for proper installation. Additionally, the sidewall pressure is not a "maximum" pressure. It is the pressure corresponding to the maximum load. For example, Michelin's Professional Motorcycle Tire Guide 2016 advises that the pressure regulator be set at 60 psi for mounting motorcycle tires, and the Michelin motorcycle web site FAQ section explains that up to 60 psi of pressure can be used to seat beads when mounting motorcycle tires and then adjusted to the recommended pressure found on the vehicle placard or owner's manual. The sidewall pressure corresponding to the maximum load on the subject tire is 290 kPa or 42 psi.

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f. Sample placard photos are shown below. Note that the recommended pressure ranges from 20 to 42 psi for tires that would have a sidewall pressure of 42 psi that corresponds to the maximum tire load capacity. This illustrates the need to use placard or owner's manual pressures when inflating tires.

i. Example 1. Note the recommended pressure is 20 psi for the 90/90-19 M/C 52V front tire that would have a sidewall pressure of 42 psi. Similarly, the recommended pressure is 30 psi for the 110/80-18 M/C 58V rear tire that would also have a sidewall pressure of 42 psi.

ii. Example 2. Note the recommended pressure is 36 psi for the 110/80-19 59V M/C front tire that would have a sidewall pressure of 42 psi. The recommended pressure is 42 psi for the 150/70-17 69V M/C rear tire that would also have a sidewall pressure of 42 psi.

C) Max Load Information: – The maximum load value corresponding to the ISO load index on the tire is published in Michelin's Professional Motorcycle Tire Guide 2016 available online, the Motorcycle Industry Council Tire Guide available online, as well as a number of retail sites. The ISO load index of "73" and the designation Load Range "B" that are present on the tire provide load description information, and along with the tire size they provide a clear cross reference to the cited publications that offer the load value in pounds if needed. Again, the tire size and load range provided are sufficient to assure the tire is appropriate for the motorcycle, and in addition the ISO load index is also provided. The specific load capacity of the motorcycle and corresponding pressure requirements as a function of speed capability are provided on the vehicle placard as well as the owner's manual.

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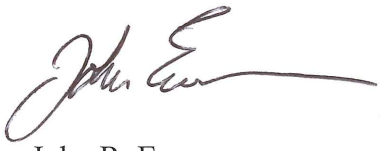
D) Other Markings – All other markings conform to the applicable regulations.
E) Performance – The subject tire meets all performance requirements of FMVSS-119.

Petition
MNA believes that the noncompliance described in this petition is inconsequential to motor vehicle safety and respectfully requests that the Agency grant MNA's petition for exemption from the notification requirements of 40 U.S.C. § 30118, and the remedy provisions of 49 U.S.C. § 30120.

If there are any questions regarding this petition please contact me.

Sincerely,



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