December, 2017

# NHTSA Recall Campaign No. 17T018

### **Dear Antares Tire Dealer,**

This notice is sent to you in accordance with the requirements of the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act. Antares Tire has decided that certain Antares Comfort A5 tires fail to comply with the requirements of Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard (FMVSS) number 139, "New Pneumatic Radial Tires for Light Vehicles." These tires may experience sidewall separation while driving increasing the risk of a crash. The defect that relates to motor vehicle safety may exist in one size of the Antares Comfort A5 tire that was manufactured between the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> week of 2016.

We have determined that this issue may affect the performance of the tires in the range described below. Vehicle operators could see a bulge on the sidewall if the tire is affected by this issue, and if the tire(s) is continuingly used, the enlarging bulge may be easily noticed visually.

Details of the recalled tires are as follows:

Product Name	Size	DOT Serial Number
Antares Comfort A5	LT225/75R16	KBU5 1916/ KBU5 2016
	118/116S 10PR	
	LOAD RANGE E	

As a tire dealer who our records indicate has sold tires covered by this recall, you are receiving this letter to (1) help you easily and accurately identify any recalled product, (2) outline your critical role in the recall, (3) walk you through the replacement, return and reimbursement processes, and (4) provide you with information on resources that can help you follow the recall requirement.

## **Immediate Next Steps**

To begin the recall process, you must locate and quarantine all recalled **Antares Comfort A5** tires in your product inventory. It is imperative that you and your subdealer, if applicable, do not sell any of these tires. Please note that it is a violation of federal law to sell or lease new or used tires covered by this notification.

We also need your assistance to locate all end users and sub-dealers who may have purchased recalled tires, so we can notify them of this recall. Due to the urgency and importance of this notification, please send to Antares Tires as soon as possible



- but no later than December 14<sup>th</sup>, 2017- the names and addresses of all consumers and sub-dealers to whom you sold or for whom you serviced the recalled tires. As soon as you provide that information, Antares Tire will mail the enclosed consumer recall notification letter to your consumer customers and/or a letter similar to this to any sub-dealer customers. Naturally, if you wish to write, call or email your customers in addition to Antares Tire's mailing, we encourage you to do so. Please e-mail the list of all customers who may have purchased recalled tires to sales888@sonnytyres.com, or fax to +86-758-313-1313, or call 1-416-726-2188 to provide it via telephone. Please separate consumer and dealer lists, if applicable.

We also ask that you share the information contained in this letter with all employees who are involved with the removal, handling or return of recalled tires to ensure that they are aware of the procedures and requirements described in this letter. A failure to comply with the instructions of this letter may constitute a violation of the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act.

## **Replacing Consumer Tires**

Consumers will be advised to return their recalled tire(s) and the recall notification letter they received, if available, to an Antares Tires dealer. When a consumer presents a recalled tire to you for replacement, please visually inspect each tire and its serial number to confirm that it is covered by the recall. If the consumer's tire(s) is covered by this recall, you should replace the tire(s), mount the new tire(s) and, if need, balance the tire(s). Antares Tires will authorize a labor and handling allowance of \$20.00 per tire. We have advised the consumer that it will take approximately thirty (30) minutes to replace each recalled tire.

If Antares brand tires are not available at the time of the inspection, please replace the recalled tires with a comparable tire brand using the same size and load rating as required by the vehicle manufacturer. PLEASE NOTE: The maximum allowable reimbursement credit for a comparable tire brand is up to \$500.00 on four, or \$125.00 per replacement. If a consumer wishes to purchase higher-priced replacement tires, he or she may pay the difference in cost between the consumer's desired tire and the replacement tire offered.

Recalled tires should be replaced at no cost to the consumer if they are presented through Jun 30th, 2018 with receipt of a recall notification letter. After Jun 30th, 2018, recalled tired will be replaced at a pro-rated value determined by remaining tread depth.

## **Collecting Recalled Tires from Sub-Dealers** (if applicable)

If you have sold recalled tires to any sub-dealer, please notify and collect those recalled tires. Also, as soon as possible, please provide Antares Tires with names

and addresses of all sub-dealers to whom you sold recalled tires. You can e-mail this information to <u>sales888@sonnytyres.com</u>, or fax to +86-758-313- 1313, or call 1-416-726-2188.

## **Handing Recalled Tires**

As mentioned above, all tires covered by the recall must be quarantined. This applies to new tires in your inventory, tires removed from consumer vehicles and tires collected from your sub-dealers. Please take the following actions for **each tire** collected or covered under this recall: (1) write "Recall" in tire crayon on the sidewall of each tire, and (2) **disable** the tire by making a 3-inch-long cut in each sidewall of the tire. This cut must be at least 3 inches to ensure that the tire cannot be inflated. **Do not skive DOT serial week codes on recalled tires.** 

Please note that federal law requires that if recalled tires are removed from a consumer's vehicle and not altered in accordance with these instructions, you must notify Antares Tires within 30 days of their removal, and explain why they were not properly altered.

# **Disposing of Recalled Tires**

Please do not independently dispose of the recalled tires. We will handle disposal of all recalled tires. After replacing and/or collecting recalled tires, contact your Antares wholesale distributor to arrange for tires to be returned. The recalled product can be picked up upon the next product delivery, or you may drop it off or mail it with freight to be collected to the warehouse location at 4818 4th Street, Irwindale, CA 91706. Along with the recalled tires, please provide the invoice for labor charges and the consumer's recall notification letter, if available.

Please note that if recalled tires are not returned to your Antares wholesale distributor in accordance with these instructions within 30 days of your receipt of the recalled tires, you must notify Antares Tires, and explain why the recalled tires were not returned within that time.

#### **Credit for Recalled Tires**

As mentioned above, when returning recalled tires, please include a copy of the invoice for labor charges and the consumer's recall notification letter (if available). This information will allow Antares Tires to credit you for labor charges, as well as the charges for the replacement tires. Now that the Antares wholesale distributor will initially bill you for replacement tires, but upon verification that returned tires are within the recall population, Antares Tire will issue a credit to your wholesale distributor for you based upon your last invoice price of the replacement tires (up to \$500.00 on four, or \$125.00 per replacement for a brand other than Antares Tires).



Antares Tire will authorize a labor and handling allowance of \$20.00 per tire.

In the event a recalled tire is sold, you must immediately notify the national Highway Traffic Safety Administration of the sale, such reports should be made to the Associate Administrator for Enforcement, NHTSA, 1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E., Washington, DC 20590.

#### **For Further Information**

We have a professional recall center in place to field questions and calls associated with the recall. The team can be reached by phone at 1-855-444-5120, and by email at service@antaresrecall.com.

Thank you in advance for your assistance. It is our desire to make this recall process consistent with the high level of service and quality you have come to expect from Antares Tire. We are committed to working with you and your customers throughout this recall to ensure a successful campaign. As always, thank you for your business.

Sincerely,

Quality Assurance

Zhaoqing Junhong Co., Ltd.

**Enclosures:** 

Customer Recall Letter