

## Defect Information Report

(Section 573.6)

**FL-872**

**Date of Submission:** 01/13/2020

**Manufacturer:** Daimler Trucks North America LLC  
P.O. BOX 3849  
Portland, Oregon 97208

**Type of Report:**  **Safety Defect**  **Non-Compliance**

### Vehicle Information

**Model Yr. Start:** 2020 **Model Yr. End:** 2022

**Make:** Freightliner

**Model:** Cascadia

**Production Dates: Begin:** 02/05/2019

**End:** 01/08/2021

**Descriptive Information:** Cascadia sleeper trucks with Bridgestone R284, R268, or R283S ECOPIA steer axle tires and in conjunction with a specific air dam.

**Number potentially involved:** 4,341 **Estimated percentage of involve with defect:** 100%

### Defect / Noncompliance Description

#### For this Defect/Noncompliance:

#### Describe the defect or noncompliance:

In the interests of safety, DTNA is filing this report in connection with incidents of certain Bridgestone steer tire tread separation and blow-outs during operation. As of the date of this report, and while root cause has not been determined, DTNA's best understanding is that the defect mechanism may be potentially caused by elevated tire temperatures during vehicle operation, leading to tire failure and loss of vehicle control. DTNA notes that there are multiple possible factors that might contribute to Bridgestone tire failures, including under inflation, road speed, overloading, application usage, high ambient temperature and aerodynamic features. DTNA may supplement this report with updated information pursuant to 49 C.F.R. 573.6(b), as appropriate.

**If a noncompliance, provide the applicable FMVSS: NA**

**Check if this recall only affects products in certain geographic regions.**

**Describe the safety risk:**

Tread separation and/or blow-outs during operation may result in a loss of vehicle control.

**Identify any warning which can precede or occur:** Drivers must conduct pre & post trip inspections of tire sidewall and tread condition, maintain proper tire pressures as required by the supplier, observe tire speed ratings, and take cautionary measures when warnings of low tire pressure and/or elevated tire temperatures are indicated on driver's notification screen at the dash panel on those trucks equipped with Tire Pressure Monitoring Systems (TPMS).

**If applicable, identify the manufacture of the defective or noncompliant component.**

Bridgestone Americas, Inc.  
200 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue South  
Nashville, TN 37201  
(800) 847-3272

## **Involved Components**

**Component Name:** Bridgestone R284, R268 or R283S ECOPIA tire

**Component Description:** steer tire

**Component Part Number:** N/A

## **Chronology of Defect / Noncompliance Determination**

### **Provide the chronology of events leading up to the defect decision or test data for the noncompliance decision:**

In or about August 2020, DTNA was made aware of several steer tire failures. DTNA began investigating and during the investigation, DTNA received additional failure reports mid through late September 2020, prompting meetings and discussions with the supplier, Bridgestone, to better understand the failures. Between October 2020 through December 2020, DTNA engaged the tire supplier several times, field personnel visited customers, and conducted additional testing to understand the nature of the issue, the safety consequences, and the possible population of affected vehicles. DTNA Compliance openly and transparently discussed this topic with NHTSA's Office of Defects Investigation (ODI) during this time period. DTNA's best, good-faith understanding throughout this time period was that the issue was under-inflation. As DTNA continued to investigate the issue, new reports of failures were received. While no root cause has been determined due to multiple, heat-contributing factors to the tire and out of an abundance of caution, on January 8, 2021, DTNA reasonably decided to conduct a voluntary safety recall. On January 12, 2021, DTNA added an additional tire model to the population to be included in the recall.

## **Identify the Remedy**

### **Describe the defect/noncompliance remedy program, including the manufacture's plan for reimbursement:**

In the absence of better information about the population, and out of an abundance of caution, based upon our current, good faith understanding, DTNA will perform the following corrective action: the aforementioned steer tires will be replaced. Repairs will be performed through Daimler Trucks North America authorized service facilities by authorized tire mounting and balancing contractors. Customer notification will be done by first class mail using Daimler Trucks North America records to determine the customers affected. Details of the reimbursement plan will be included in the owner's notification letter.

## **Identify the Recall Schedule**

### **Describe the recall schedule for notifications:**

Customer notification will be made by first class mail using Daimler Trucks North America records to determine the customers affected.

<b>Planned Dealer Notification Begin Date:</b>	3/13/2021
<b>Planned Dealer Notification End Date:</b>	3/13/2021
<b>Planned Owner Notification Begin Date:</b>	3/13/2021
<b>Planned Owner Notification End Date:</b>	3/13/2021

**Manufacturer's identification code for this recall (if applicable):** FL-872

## Manufactures Comments to NHTSA Staff

**DTNA Representative;**



Larissa Stoffels  
Executive Manager, Vehicle Safety  
Compliance and Regulatory Affairs