

# Part 573 Safety Recall Report

## 22T-001

**Manufacturer Name :** Vee Tyre and Rubber Co., Ltd.

**Submission Date :** MAR 04, 2022

**NHTSA Recall No. :** 22T-001

**Manufacturer Recall No. :** 16MBCMJBL&16MJEMJBL



### Manufacturer Information :

**Manufacturer Name :** Vee Tyre and Rubber Co., Ltd.

**Address :** c/o Larson, Garrick & Lightfoot, LLP  
801 S. Figueroa Street, Suite 1130 Los  
Angeles CA 90017

**Company phone :** (213) 404-4100

### Population :

**Number of potentially involved :** 1,782

**Estimated percentage with defect :** 100 %

### Tire Information :

**Tire Brand 1 :** Tri-Ace

**Tire Line :** Pioneer A/T III

**Tire Size :** LT235/85R16

**Descriptive Information :** Based on December 9, 2021 letter from NHTSA and Vee's own investigation, all tires in tire line were determined to be part of the recall population, 946 of which were LT235/85R16.

**Production Dates :** DEC 04, 2018 - APR 30, 2019

#### TIN (Tire Identification Number)

Plant ID	Size code	Optional Code	Begin M Code	End M Code
16M	JE	MJBL	4718	1819

**Tire Brand 2 :** Tri-Ace

**Tire Line :** Pioneer A/T III

**Tire Size :** LT245/70R17

**Descriptive Information :** Based on December 9, 2021 letter from NHTSA and Vee's own investigation, all tires in tire line were determined to be part of the recall population, 836 of which were LT245/70R17.

**Production Dates :** DEC 04, 2018 - MAR 31, 2019

#### TIN (Tire Identification Number)

Plant ID	Size code	Optional Code	Begin M Code	End M Code
16M	BC	MJBL	4718	1819

**Description of Defect :**

Description of the Defect : Sidewall separation and loss of air after overheating. The position of the steel belt in some of the tires in the line appears to have deviated from specification for the tire.

FMVSS 1 : 139 - New pneumatic radial tires for light vehicles

FMVSS 2 : NR

Description of the Safety Risk : There is a risk that the subject tires will overheat, separate at the upper sidewall and tread, and lose air, which increases the risk of a motor vehicle crash.

Description of the Cause : The position of the steel belt on some of the tires does not follow the specifications, and may have resulted in a possible noncompliance with FMVSS 139. In consideration for the safety risk presented by the tires, the investigation team decided to recall all production of these two sizes regardless of the production dates.

Identification of Any Warning that can Occur : The tires will cause a severe vibration.

**Involved Components :**

Component Name : NR

Component Description : NR

Component Part Number : NR

**Supplier Identification :****Component Manufacturer**

Name : NR

Address : NR

NR

Country : NR

**Chronology :**

December 9, 2021 – Designated Agent receives email w/attached NHTSA correspondence and testing materials from Jayton Lindley of NHTSA. The correspondence is from Claudia W. Covell, Chief Equipment Division of the Office of Vehicle Safety Compliance;

December 16 2021 – Vee management sets up an investigation team;

December 16, 2021 - Investigation team commences analysis of content of NHTSA correspondence and the test reports provided by NHTSA;

December 17, 2021 - Investigation team gathers the sales records, production records, inventory information, and rechecked the subject tire testing records for all production since 2018;

December 17, 2021 - Investigation team quarantines relevant tires at the Vee factory for analysis by team;

December 23, 2021 - Investigation team collect sample tires to retest for FMVSS 139 compliance;

January 5, 2022 - Investigation team sections allege defect tires and analyzes the cut sections;

January 7, 2022 - Investigation team sections additional alleged defect tires and analyzes the cut sections;

January 10-11, 2022 - Investigation team evaluates its own, and NHTSA's data;

January 12-19, 2022 - Investigation team commences and completes report preparation

January 17 - Investigation team draws final conclusions while drafting its response to the December 9, 2021 letter, which will concur with NHTSA's finding that the subject tires should be recalled. It was determined that the steel belt on a significant number of 25 or more sectioned tires did not follow the specifications and may have resulted in a noncompliance with FMVSS. In consideration for the safety risk presented by the tires, the investigation team decided to recall all production of these two sizes without regard to the production dates.

## Description of Remedy :

**Description of Remedy Program :** Vee will contact Tri-Ace, if it maintains current business operations, and if not, Vee will contact known dealers for Tri-Ace to acquire customer records, if any.

The remedy and plan for reimbursement of consumers are reflected in Vee's recall letter, which provides that: "Owners are asked to bring their tires to a Tri-Ace or Vee Tyre dealer within 180 days of receipt of this letter. The tire dealers will inspect the tires to ensure that they meet the DOT criteria above, and if so, the dealer will remove the tires and, at the Owner's option, either reimburse the Owner for the retail sale price of the returned tires along with any taxes, mounting and disposal fees, or apply the reimbursement funds to the purchase and installation of a new tire. Owners are asked to bring the receipt for their tire purchase so that the retail dealer can properly reimburse them in the event that the dealer does not have a record of the sale. In situations in which neither the customer nor the dealer has a record of the transaction, the reimbursement amount is the cost of replacement or \$10 above Vee Tyre's DDP (the price it sold to distributors), whichever is less."

With regard to wholesalers, distributors, and retailers, Vee will provide a Service Bulletin concerning the process for their reimbursement for participation in the remedy: "Vee Tyre is asking Tire Owners to return all of these tires to any distributors/retailers for reimbursement of the retail sale price of the returned tires along with any taxes, service and disposal fees. In turn, upon presentation of documentation of the distributor/retailers' payment to the consumer, including photos of the properly disabled returned tires along with initial purchase orders, service invoices, and/or credit receipts, Vee Tyre will reimburse the distributor/retailer for all of the amounts paid to customers."

**How Remedy Component Differs from Recalled Component :** n/a

**Identify How/When Recall Condition was Corrected in Production :** The tire line was already out-of-production when NHTSA notified Vee about the findings of its investigation in its December 9, 2021 correspondence.

## Recall Schedule :

**Description of Recall Schedule :** The Tri-Ace recall tires were sold in the USA only through Tri-Ace. Tri-Ace's US arm is called North American Homeway Tire Corporation (NAHTC), and its address is: 3203 S. Sam Houston Parkway East, Ste 100, Houston, TX 77032. Only NAHTC has access to the identity of its US customers which includes other distributors, and only those distributors would have access to their retailers. The principle sales director at NAHTC is Luke Daniel, Cell: +1-713-298-6516. Vee's counsel made contact with Mr. Daniel, and he agreed to provide Vee with the names of NAHTC's customers, including its distributors and their retailers, if

possible. From there, Vee intended to get actual retail consumer names, if possible. However, while initially appearing to cooperate, Vee has not heard from Mr. Daniel since speaking with him last Wed., February 9. Counsel attempted follow up with Mr. Daniel by text on Monday, February 14. Vee's US sales director has also attempted to contact Mr. Daniel, but has received no response. Vee's sales director intends to make a visit NAHTC next Wednesday while in Houston, if permitted, but it is uncertain whether this will be fruitful. Vee has diligently attempted to ascertain the distribution chain and identities of ultimate consumers through the only entity from which it is appropriate, NAHTC. In light of the foregoing, Vee respectfully requests that the notification dates be amended to allow further communication with Mr. Daniel to occur, as well as disclosure of NAHTC's distributors and their retailers, if possible. Alternatively, Vee proposes to enlist NHTSA's assistance in communicating with NAHTC and Mr. Daniel.

Vee further requests that the Dealer Notification Begin and End Dates be amended to 3/10/22 and 4/11/22, respectively, and that the Owner Notification Begin and End Dates be amended to 3/21/22 and 4/21/22, respectively. Thank you in advance for your understanding and assistance.

Planned Dealer Notification Date : MAR 10, 2022 - APR 11, 2022

Planned Owner Notification Date : MAR 21, 2022 - APR 21, 2022

### Purchaser Information :

The following manufacturers purchased this defective/noncompliant equipment for possible use or installation in new motor vehicles or new items of motor vehicle equipment:

Name : NR

Address : NR

NR

Country : NR

Company Phone : NR

\* NR - Not Reported