

Bridgestone Americas Tire Operations, LLC 200 4th Avenue South Nashville, TN USA 37201

April 1, 2022

NHTSA ID: 22T-002

IMPORTANT SAFETY RECALL

Dear Valued Bridgestone Customer:

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 Transforce HT and Firestone Transforce AT tires. BATO has initiated a voluntary safety recall of the following tires:

- Firestone Transforce HT^{*} in size LT275/70R18 manufactured between May 2, 2021 and May 8, 2021, and marked with the tire identification number "DOT VN15 TH7 1821"
- Firestone Transforce AT^{*} in size LT275/70R18 manufactured between May 2, 2021 and May 8, 2021, and marked with the tire identification number "DOT VN15 TR9 1821"

These tires were sold as original equipment on new RAM 2500 and 3500 trucks. These tires also were sold in the replacement market in the United States.

You are receiving this letter because BATO's records indicate that you have purchased tires, or a new vehicle equipped with tires, that may be the subject of this safety recall.

REASON FOR THE RECALL

Recalled tires may have been manufactured with an incorrect inner liner compound, which may result in increased air permeability and/or inner liner cracking. If undetected, over time, these conditions could progress and cause the tread and/or belt to detach during operation. A tread/belt detachment without prior warning may increase the risk of a vehicle crash.

Affected tires may experience higher-than-normal loss of tire air pressure, noise, vibration, handling disturbance, and/or irregular treadwear.

^{*} Please note that this recall only applies to the Transforce HT and Transforce AT tires. It does <u>not</u> apply to the Transforce HT2 and Transforce AT2 tire lines.

TIRE REPLACEMENT PROGRAM

Consistent with the company's longstanding commitment to safety, customer satisfaction and service, BATO will replace tires subject to the recall with new tires, and mount the replacement tires, *all at no charge to you* through October 1, 2022.

Replacement tires are currently available. Any tires replaced under this recall will be replaced with new, Bridgestone or Firestone tires. If Bridgestone or Firestone brand tires are unavailable, a suitable competitive product may be used as a replacement tire.

DESCRIPTION OF TIRES COVERED AND HOW TO IDENTIFY THEM

Tires have certain unique sidewall markings that will allow you to determine whether they are subject to this recall. Any tire that has <u>all four</u> markings described below is subject to this recall and should be replaced. Please examine the sidewalls of your tires (including spare) to confirm:

- 1. Tire brand is marked as "Firestone"
- 2. Tire line is marked as "Transforce HT" or "Transforce AT"
- 3. Tire size is marked as "LT275/70R18" and
- 4. Tire identification number is marked as "DOT VN15 TH7 1821" or "DOT VN15 TR9 1821"



The tire identification number (TIN) can be found on the sidewall below the brand name. The photos below show the Transforce HT (left) and Transforce AT (right) TINs. Each starts with the letters "DOT" and ends with "1821"— indicating the tires were made in the 18th week of 2021 (i.e., between 5/2/2021 and 5/8/2021). The size code (bottom photo) is the same for both tires.



HOW TO HAVE YOUR TIRES REPLACED

If your tire contains all four of the above-described sidewall markings, please bring your vehicle as soon as possible to a Bridgestone company-owned retail store or Bridgestone/Firestone authorized dealer/retailer. The company-owned retail store or authorized Bridgestone dealer/retailer will confirm the inspection and replace all affected tires – including any affected full-sized spare. Only tires matching the recall description will be replaced.

If you have any questions about whether your tires are covered by this recall, please contact your local authorized Bridgestone dealer/retailer. To locate an authorized Bridgestone dealer/retailer or Bridgestone company-owned retail location, please call 1-844-456-9162 or visit our website at https://www.bridgestonetire.com/dealer.

REIMBURSEMENT FOR AFFECTED TIRES REPLACED PRIOR TO RECALL

If you have already replaced tires due to the recall condition, you may be eligible to receive reimbursement for tires, parts, labor, fees and taxes. Reimbursements may be limited to the amount the replacement would have cost if completed by an authorized Bridgestone dealer or retailer. To be eligible, you must present the following to BATO at <u>Cust-Info@bfusa.com</u>:

- Name and address of the person or company that paid for the replacement.
- Description of the problem that occurred with the replaced tire(s) including the tire line, size, and DOT TINs of the replaced tire(s).
- Invoice/receipt showing: name of servicer, replacement tires, date of service, and total cost.
- Proof of payment (e.g., copy of cancelled check or credit card receipt).

PROBLEMS OR CONCERNS

If you have any problems or concerns about this recall, or if your Bridgestone company-owned retail store or Bridgestone/Firestone authorized dealer/retailer does not make the necessary replacements free of charge, please call 1-800-847-3272.

If you believe that BATO or an authorized Bridgestone dealer/retailer has failed or is unable to provide a remedy without charge within a reasonable time, you may submit a complaint to the Administrator, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 1200 New Jersey Ave., SE., Washington, DC 20590; or call the toll-free Vehicle Safety Hotline at 1–888–327–4236 (TTY: 1–800–424–9153); or go to http://www.nhtsa.gov.

If you are a vehicle lessor, please note that Federal law requires that you forward a copy of this notice to the lessee within 10 days.

We regret the inconvenience that this recall may cause you. Safety is a core value at Bridgestone, and we appreciate your quick attention to inspect your tires and ensure your driving safety.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Bridgestone Americas Tire Operations, LLC