

NHTSA Recall No. 20T020

May 11, 2022

IMPORTANT SAFETY RECALL

Dear Falken Dealer	From: Sumitomo Rubber North America, Inc.¹
---------------------------	--

This notice is being sent to you in accordance with the requirements of the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act (Safety Act).

Sumitomo Rubber Industries, Ltd. (SRI) has decided that certain Falken brand truck tires do not comply with FMVSS 119, S6.1.2(a). SRI has initiated a voluntary safety recall of these tires. The specific tires subject to the recall are listed in the attached affected-tire list.

You are receiving this notice because SRNA's records indicate that you received tires that may be subject to this recall. Further, SRI is required to advise you of certain tire dealer obligations, which are detailed in this notice.

Effective immediately, a stop sale is required for Falken brand tires identified in the attached affected-tire list.

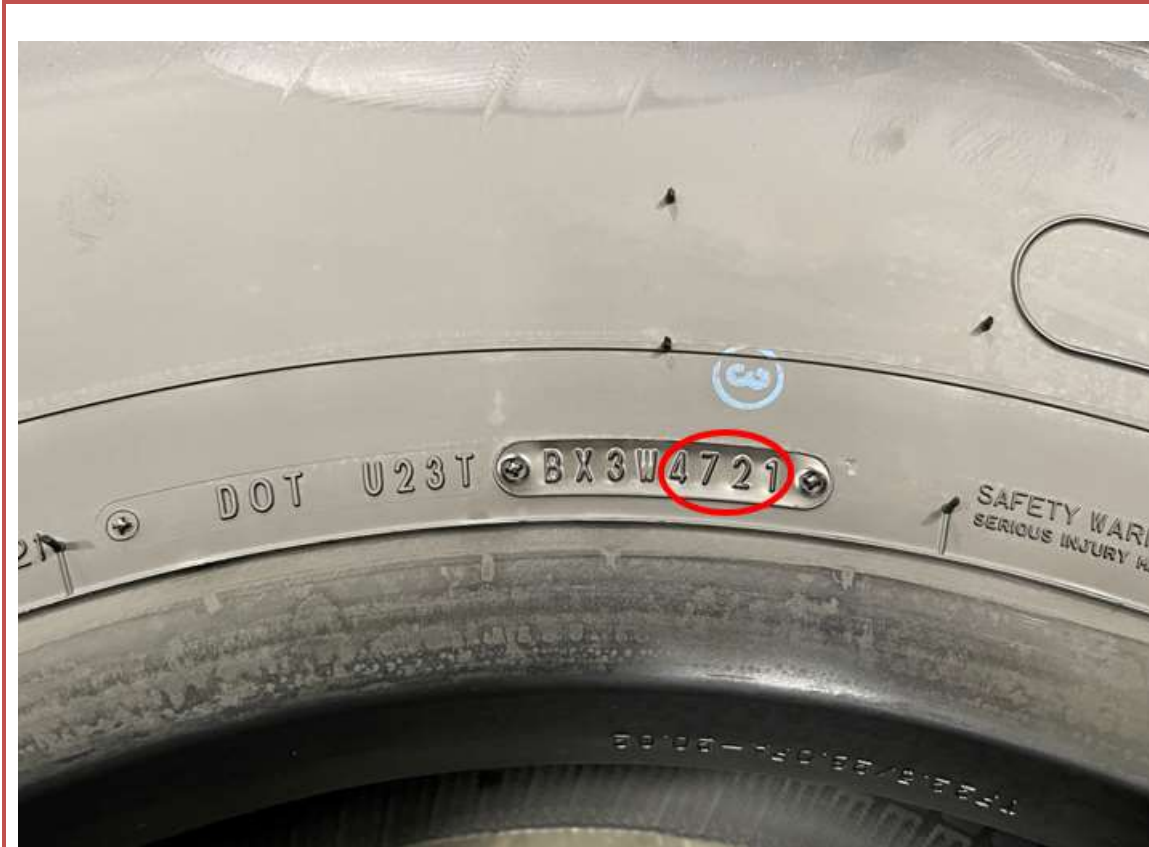
The affected tires that are in your dealer inventory, or may be arriving at your dealerships, must be returned to either of our three (3) warranty centers in accordance with the instruction in the section of this letter titled **ACTIONS REQUIRED BY DEALERS.**

Affected tires that must be returned are those listed in the attached affected-tire list by pattern and size, to include specific manufactured date ranges.

For example, if an affected pattern and size tire is listed as showing the manufactured dates are '1120', '1220', and '1320', then under this example, dealers should return all tires showing '1120', '1220', and '1320' as the manufactured date.

The tire's manufacture date is listed in the complete DOT numbers on one side of the tire, with the last four numbers being the week and year manufactured, as shown circled in red below.

¹ Sumitomo Rubber North America, Inc. (SRNA) is Sumitomo Rubber Industries, Ltd.'s (SRI) U.S. subsidiary.



The return shipment will be at no charge to you. Any returned inventory will be replaced at no charge to you with Falken tires produced outside the affected population or full reimbursement credit provided.

If you have any difficulty identifying an affected tire, please contact our Quality Assurance department at **1-877-763-0416**.

What's the Issue:

SRI has determined that some tires among a population of approximately 1,037 Falken truck tires may not meet the requirements of 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*. Specifically, subject tires that complete the endurance test in FMVSS 119 S7.2 may be susceptible to developing visible deformation in a single, small area of the bead (near the upper edge of the rim flange). This deformation may violate FMVSS 119 S6.1.2(a).

What SRI is Doing:

Consistent with SRI's longstanding commitment to safety and customer satisfaction and service, owners of any affected tires that match the size, line, the Department of Transportation (DOT) tire identification number (TIN), and the production period

provided in the affected-tire list are urged to contact a Falken dealer to arrangement verification and replacement at no charge through November 21, 2022.

Any tire subject to this recall will be replaced with a comparable Falken tire. In the event that a Falken brand tire is not currently available, a suitable competitive product may be used as a replacement.

Upon receipt of this notice, however, dealers are prohibited under Federal law from continuing to sell any affected tires that remain in their inventory.

ACTIONS REQUIRED BY DEALERS

As a result of this safety recall and federal law, you are required to take the following actions. Returning Inventory (New/Never Mounted) Recalled Tires. Examine your tire inventory. Any tires that meet the above description are subject to this recall and cannot be sold. To determine if you have received tires that are included in this recall, please check the DOT TIN found on the sidewall of the tire as explained in Appendix A. If you have tires that meet the above description, immediately stop the sale. Immediately count your inventory of affected tires and record specific DOT TINs. Provide this information to SRNA's Quality Assurance department at 1-800-723-2553, option 2.

Promptly return all recalled tires from your inventory to SRNA as per company directions. You will be compensated for all recalled (new) tires that you return from inventory. All tires removed from inventory under this recall campaign must be rendered permanently unserviceable. To render the tire unserviceable, please utilize one of the following three options:

Option 1: Drill a 1" nominal (plus or minus ¼" tolerance) hole through the sidewall using the 1" hole saw. Rotate the recalled tire approximately 180 degrees and drill a second hole through the sidewall. Drilling additional holes beyond the two specified is not necessary. Drilling holes in the other sidewall is not necessary.

Option 2: Cut between body cords in the sidewall area of the tire. The cut shall be a minimum of 3-inches long. Making more than one continuous 3-inch minimum length cut or cutting more than one sidewall is not necessary.

Option 3: Use a "Bead Notching" machine to permanently remove a section of the bead from the tire. It is not necessary to remove more than one section of bead or to remove a section of bead from more than one side of the tire.

Please do not alter the DOT TIN in any way as we will check it to validate that the returned tire meets the recall criteria.

Provide SRNA the List of Owners of Recalled Tires

Please check your sales records to determine if you have sold any of the tires listed in the table above, which are subject to this recall. If you find that you have sold any of the tires covered under this recall, please send the following information for each customer to SRNA so that the customer can be added to the voluntary safety recall mailing list:

Customer/Fleet Name:	
Address (street, city, state, ZIP code):	
Date of Sale/Mounting:	
Quantity Sold/Mounted:	

Please send the customer information by email to **Warranty@srnatire.com**. For email, please use the subject line: "Recall No. 20T020 Customer Information."

Alternatively, you may mail the customer information to:

Sumitomo Rubber North America, Inc.
Attention Quality Assurance
8656 Haven Ave.
Rancho Cucamonga, CA 91730

Customers who are identified as potential purchasers of the affected tires will be issued a letter requesting that the owner check their tires to determine if they are subject to the voluntary safety recall. If the customer is unable to determine whether the tires are part of this recall, the customer will be instructed to contact an authorized Falken dealer or call Customer Service at **1-877-763-0416**.

Replacement of Mounted Tires

Customers who visit an authorized Falken dealer in connection with this recall must have all tires inspected in order to determine whether the DOT TIN is an exact match as indicated above. Please make sure to check each tire closely. If the DOT TIN does not exactly match the description above, the tire is not part of the recall. Any tire with the DOT TIN described in the affected-tire list must be replaced immediately without charge (including mounting and balancing) to the customer. Dealers will be reimbursed \$35 for mounting and balancing for each tire replaced in service.

Please do NOT alter the DOT TIN in any way as we will check it to validate that the returned tire meets the recall criteria. Dealers must secure the recalled tires. All tires

removed from service under this recall must be rendered permanently unserviceable. To render the tire unserviceable, please utilize one of the following three options:

Option 1: Drill a 1" nominal (plus or minus ¼" tolerance) hole through the sidewall using the 1" hole saw. Rotate the recalled tire approximately 180 degrees and drill a second hole through the sidewall. Drilling additional holes beyond the two specified is not necessary. Drilling holes in the other sidewall is not necessary.

Option 2: Cut between body cords in the sidewall area of the tire. The cut shall be a minimum of 3-inches long. Making more than one continuous 3-inch minimum length cut or cutting more than one sidewall is not necessary.

Option 3: Use a "Bead Notching" machine to permanently remove a section of the bead from the tire. It is not necessary to remove more than one section of bead or to remove a section of bead from more than one side of the tire.

If you have any questions, please contact SRNA's Quality Assurance department at **1-877-763-0416**.

All new or used affected tires must be returned following the instructions listed below:

All affected tires are to be listed on a separate Falken Adjustment Claim Form.

Mark "New Recall" on new (never mounted) tires and "Used Recall" on tires removed from service on the sidewall as well as the claim form. Tires are to be rendered unserviceable as described earlier in this letter.

After the Falken claim form is completed, please ship freight collect using the following carrier:

ArcBest Freight – 888-897-1319 or Customersupport04@arcb.com

Ship tires along with a copy of the claim form to your normal warranty servicing location.

For any questions on this procedure, please call Falken's Quality Assurance department at 1-877-763-0416

Disposition of Tires Subject to a Safety-Related Recall

SRI is required to advise you of the following information:

IT IS A VIOLATION OF FEDERAL LAW FOR A DEALER TO SELL, LEASE, REUSE, OR RESELL A RECALLED TIRE.

 **SUMITOMO RUBBER NORTH AMERICA, INC.**

8656 Haven Avenue • Rancho Cucamonga, CA 91730
909.466.1116 • 800.723.2553 • www.srnatire.com

If a dealer knowingly sells or leases new or used recalled tires, the sale must be reported to the Associate Administrator for Safety Assurance, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E. Washington, DC 20590 or call the tollfree Auto Safety Hotline at 1-888-327-4236 (TTY 1-800-424-9153); or go to www.nhtsa.gov within five working days of such a release to report the following information:

- 1) A statement that a report is being submitted pursuant to 49 CFR 573.10(a);
- 2) The name, address, and phone number of the person who purchased or leased the tire;
- 3) The name of the manufacturer of the tire;
- 4) The tire's brand name, model name, and size;
- 5) The tire DOT identification number and press identification number;
- 6) The date of the sale or lease; and
- 7) The name, address, and telephone number of the seller or lessor.

These notifications and instructions must be communicated to all employees of this dealership who are involved in the inspection and removal of recalled tires.

* * *

While we regret any inconvenience this may cause, SRI is determined to maintain a high level of tire quality and customer satisfaction.

Please refer all customer inquiries to the SRNA Quality Assurance department at **1-877-763-0416**.

Sincerely,

Sumitomo Rubber North America, Inc.

SUMITOMO RUBBER NORTH AMERICA, INC.

8656 Haven Avenue · Rancho Cucamonga, CA 91730
909.466.1116 · 800.723.2553 · www.srnatire.com

Attachment: Affected tire list.

FTC #	SRI #	Brand	Size/Pattern	Plant ID	Size Code	Opt Code	DOT Week
62130966	330955	Falken	11R24.5 149/146L RI130 EcoRun	U2	4F	6XFW	1220
62130936	330954	Falken	11R22.5 146/143L RI130 EcoRun	U2	3T	6XFW	0720/1020/1420
62130956	330956	Falken	285/75R24.5 147/144L RI130 EcoRun	U2	BP	6XFW	0420
62150936	326265	Falken	11R22.5 146/143L RI150 EcoRun	U2	3T	6X3W	2020
62151949	333880	Falken	315/80R22.5 156/150L RI151S	V4	4D	8XYW	2120
62388967	304417	Falken	11R24.5 149/146K GI388	U2	4F	6XTW	0920/1320