

Rauner, Allan (A.H.)

From: Rauner, Allan (A.H.)
Sent: Thursday, August 12, 1999 9:22 AM
To: 'schafrickstu@bfusa.com'
Subject: FW: FOV Explorer Tires

Info

Allan Rauner
Explorer OPD Chassis
Tire and Wheel Engineer
313-59-42821
313-390-6744 (fax)
ARAUNER@FORD.COM
33 months and counting

-----Original Message-----

From: CMARON VENEZUEL [mailto:CMARON.VENEZUEL]
Sent: Wednesday, August 11, 1999 4:16 PM
To: arauner@mail.ford.com; ehsueh@mail.ford.com;
jkuznick@drbn005.dearborn.ford.com; jboerger@drbn006.dearborn.ford.com
Cc: adasilva@drbn007.dearborn.ford.com;
rmoreno6@drbn007.dearborn.ford.com; oromero@drbn007.dearborn.ford.com
Subject: FOV Explorer Tires

The issue we commented weeks ago with Explorer tires failure continues. Tires blow out at high speeds. Loss of tread is experienced sometimes.

Accidents continue occurring, the rumor is on the street already and the media could get aware anytime.

We have made exhaustive investigations with Firestone experts and have found nothing. Firestone claims that any tire could have tread separation due to aging, damage, wear or high speed/low pressure condition.

Last week, a team of Firestone came down from US and made a tour across dealers in several cities. Their report will be out tomorrow. Their preliminary conclusions are:

- There is no sign of any manufacturing defect of the tires.
- Objects as nails, glass particles and others were found on the tread that could lead to steel corrosion and eventually tread separation.
- Most of the tires were underinflated on the range of 20 to 24 psi. Some of the tires as low as 11 psi.

We ask: These are facts of Venezuelan market. Why only Explorers suffer accidents?

We are not to stand this situation anymore. We want to do a campaign of change of tires to 100% Explorers in Service. The problem is that we don't know which tire to install because we don't know the cause of failure.

We need your help on the following:

- Any comments/recommendation you could give us regarding this issue.
- Part numbers of alternate tires already approved for Explorer that we could use. Preferable Good Year tires.
- Is there any kind of sign that this issue exists in the US or other market?
- Is there anything in the vehicle that you think is causing the failure?

We would like to have a teleconference on this issue ASAP. Can it be tomorrow afternoon? Eva, please advise.

Thanks for your attention and prompt response

Carlos Maron "Imagination is more
FOV Local Development Mgr important than
FORDNET:7650-405 knowledge"
PH:58-41-406405 FAX:58-41-406311 Albert Einstein

Rauner, Allan (A.H.)

From: Behr, John [BehrJohn@bfusa.com]
Sent: Friday, August 20, 1999 5:00 PM
To: 'Rauner, Allan (A.H.)'
Cc: Schafrick, Stuart; Behr, John
Subject: RE: Urgent Request

Allan, below are the volumes for the P255/70R16 Wilderness AT OWL that was exported from North America to Venezuela. I assume these tires were supplied to Ford-Venezuela by Bridgestone/Firestone-Venezuela, but I am not certain that every single one of them was fitted as OE. Some may have been used in the replacement market.

1996 -	5,027
1997 -	33,693
1998 -	18,275
1999 -	0

Total - 56,995

I did not ask our people for shipments on the P235/75R15, but I don't believe very many, if any, of that size was shipped to Venezuela.

John Behr

-----Original Message-----

From: Rauner, Allan (A.H.) [mailto:arauner@ford.com]
Sent: Thursday, August 19, 1999 7:51 AM
To: 'behrjohn@bfusa.com'
Cc: 'schafrickstu@bfusa.com'
Subject: Urgent Request

John,

Can you get the count, by year (ie. 95,96,97,98,99), of US built P235/75R15 (ST381J) and P255/70R16 (ST369J) that have been shipped to FoV for Explorers built in Venezuela. I need this count by COB today (8-19). I'm not sure if P235's were ever sent but I know P255's were.

This whole Venezuela thing is blowing up and a 14D has been requested. I recall is going to happen.

Stu, I need to get that report TODAY from your SA Design group. FAX me a copy to 390-6744 this morning.

Thanks,

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33 months and counting

Rauner, Allan (A.H.)

From: Rauner, Allan (A.H.)
Sent: Friday, August 20, 1999 12:26 PM
To: Romero, Oscar (O.)
Cc: Dehne, Troy (T.L.); Kuznicki, Joseph (J.L.); Rauner, Allan (A.H.)
Subject: FW: Tire for South America

Goodyear just finished retesting this tire noted below and has passed as an "S" (112mph) tire. Goodyear is in the process of restamping the tire as an "S" rated tire. The tire actually did better in the high speed "S" rating testing than the Firestone tire.

This would be the best tire choice to change to for 16" Venezuela Explorers because of its new speed rating and its tougher South America construction. I don't know whether Goodyear will give the tire a new part number when they restamp the speed rating but I don't think they will because nothing changed in the tire construction.

As per my previous, you can find out how the tire is performing on SA PN96 vehicles.

Thanks,

Allan Rauner
Explorer OPD Chassis
Tire and Wheel Engineer
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ARAUNER@FORD.COM
33 months and counting

~~-----Original Message-----~~

~~From:~~ MIKE PULTE JR [mailto:mike_pulte@goodyear.com]
~~Sent:~~ Thursday, August 19, 1999 10:16 AM
~~To:~~ arauner@mail.ford.com
~~Subject:~~ Tire for South America

Allan, I discussed your tire needs with our Ford Engineering team in Akron. They suggest using the PN96 P255/70R16 Wrangler RT/S 6D0220C F85A-1508-MA (OWL) -NA (BSL) on the Explorer in South America. This is a special South American "P" metric tire. It's construction is specifically designed for that market (much more rugged than an North American P-metric tire). The Tire was originally released as a "R" speed rating but tests show that the tire can be easily marked a "S" speed rating. This might be the solution you are looking for.