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TO SPANISH TO DELIVER TO FORD  
IN SPANISH LANGUAGES.

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BRIDGESTONE FIRESTONE  
VENEZUELA

# 1  
11 AGO 1999

RECIBIDO  
PRESIDENCIA

Date: August 9, 1999

To: Mr. J. Gonzalez

From: B.V. Halverson

Subject: VENEZUELA TIRE SURVEY

I have attached a copy of the trip report of the recently completed tire survey related to Ford Explorer vehicles.

The information that is in the report was discussed with all of the survey team and with Mr. Carlos Maron in his office on Wednesday August 4, 1999.

We discussed the importance of tire inflation and how under inflated tires can cause internal damage and that the damage is cumulative. The longer it runs in that state the more the damage.

Mr. Maron was appreciative of the information but he really wanted a BFS recommendation that would guarantee that a tire would never have a separation. He asked if tires with higher speed ratings could operate better in under inflated conditions than tires with lower or no speed rating. We stated that it would not make a difference, if any tire is under inflated and "run low" for any reason, the performance and life of the tire will be affected.

The team drove between inspection locations in two Ford Explorer vehicles provided by Ford. During the travel between cities we drove at speeds up to 95 mph for extended periods of time. Based on our observations, sustained high speed driving must be considered as a normal input in the performance of vehicles and tires in Venezuela.

As we discussed in Valencia, when the adjusted tires are collected and in the plant area, please let us know so we can arrange to go to Valencia for an inspection survey.

*B.V. Halverson*  
B.V. Halverson  
Mgr. Market Quality Engineering

cc: Mr. R.O. Martin ✓  
Mr. R. Marble

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