

e. Program Evaluation

As a condition of grant award, grantees may be required to participate in an evaluation undertaken by DOT, or another agency or partner. The evaluation may take different forms such as an implementation assessment across grant recipients, an impact and/or outcomes analysis of all or selected sites within or across grantee, or a benefit/cost analysis or assessment of return on investment. The Department may require applicants to collect data elements to aid the evaluation. As a part of the evaluation, as a condition of award, grantee must agree to: (1) make records available to the evaluation contractor; (2) provide access to program records, and any other relevant documents to calculate costs and benefits; (3) in the case of an impact analysis, facilitate the access to relevant information as requested; and (4) follow evaluation procedures as specified by the evaluation contractor or DOT staff. For grant recipients, evaluation expenses are allowable costs (either as direct or indirect), unless prohibited by statute or regulation, and such expenses may include the personnel and equipment needed for data infrastructure and expertise in data analysis, performance, and evaluation (2 CFR part 200).

f. Project Signage and Public Acknowledgements

As a condition of grant award, for construction and non-construction projects, recipients may be required to post project signage and to include public acknowledgments in published and other collateral materials (*e.g.*, press releases, marketing materials, website, etc.) satisfactory in form and substance to DOT, that identifies the nature of the project and indicates that “the project is funded by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law”. In addition, recipients employing project signage are required to use the official Investing in America emblem in accordance with the Official Investing in America Emblem Style Guide. Costs associated with signage and public acknowledgments must be reasonable and limited. Signs or public acknowledgments should not be produced, displayed, or published if doing so results in unreasonable cost, expense, or recipient burden. The Recipient is encouraged to use recycled or recovered materials when procuring signs.

G. Federal Awarding Agency Contacts

For further information concerning this notice, please contact the FRA NOFO Support program staff via email

at FRA-NOFO-Support@dot.gov. If additional assistance is needed, you may contact Ms. Deborah Kobrin, Supervisory Transportation Specialist, at email: deborah.kobrin@dot.gov or telephone: 202–420–1281 in FRA’s Office of Rail Program Development.

H. Other Information

All information submitted as part of or in support of any application shall use publicly available data or data that can be made public and methodologies that are accepted by industry practice and standards, to the extent possible. If the application includes information the applicant considers to be a trade secret or confidential commercial or financial information, the applicant should do the following: (1) note on the front cover that the submission “Contains Confidential Business Information (CBI)”; (2) mark each affected page “CBI”; and (3) highlight or otherwise denote the CBI portions.

The DOT regulations implementing the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) are found at 49 CFR part 7, subpart C—Availability of Reasonably Described Records under the Freedom of Information Act which sets forth rules for FRA to make requested materials, information, and records publicly available under FOIA. Unless prohibited by law and to the extent permitted under the FOIA, contents of application and proposals submitted by successful applicants may be released in response to FOIA requests. The Department may share application information within the Department or with other Federal agencies if the Department determines that sharing is relevant to the respective program’s objectives.

Issued in Washington, DC.

Jennifer Mitchell,
Deputy Administrator.

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

[Docket No. NHTSA–2023–0004; Notice 1]

Michelin North America, Inc., Receipt of Petition for Decision of Inconsequential Noncompliance

AGENCY: National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), Department of Transportation (DOT).

ACTION: Receipt of petition.

SUMMARY: Michelin North America, Inc. (MNA) has determined that certain Michelin X Works D tires do not fully

comply with Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard (FMVSS) No. 119, *New Pneumatic Tires for Motor Vehicles with a GVWR of More Than 4,536 kilograms (10,000) pounds, Speciality Tires, and Tires for Motorcycles*. MNA filed a noncompliance report dated December 16, 2022, and January 11, 2023, and subsequently petitioned NHTSA (the “Agency”) on January 10, 2023, for a decision that the subject noncompliance is inconsequential as it relates to motor vehicle safety. This document announces receipt of MNA’s petition.

DATES: Send comments on or before April 29, 2024.

ADDRESSES: Interested persons are invited to submit written data, views, and arguments on this petition. Comments must refer to the docket and notice number cited in the title of this notice and may be submitted by any of the following methods:

- **Mail:** Send comments by mail addressed to the U.S. Department of Transportation, Docket Operations, M–30, West Building Ground Floor, Room W12–140, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, Washington, DC 20590.

- **Hand Delivery:** Deliver comments by hand to the U.S. Department of Transportation, Docket Operations, M–30, West Building Ground Floor, Room W12–140, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, Washington, DC 20590. The Docket Section is open on weekdays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. except for Federal Holidays.

- **Electronically:** Submit comments electronically by logging onto the Federal Docket Management System (FDMS) website at <https://www.regulations.gov/>. Follow the online instructions for submitting comments.

- Comments may also be faxed to (202) 493–2251.

Comments must be written in the English language, and be no greater than 15 pages in length, although there is no limit to the length of necessary attachments to the comments. If comments are submitted in hard copy form, please ensure that two copies are provided. If you wish to receive confirmation that comments you have submitted by mail were received, please enclose a stamped, self-addressed postcard with the comments. Note that all comments received will be posted without change to https://www.regulations.gov, including any personal information provided.

All comments and supporting materials received before the close of business on the closing date indicated above will be filed in the docket and will be considered. All comments and supporting materials received after the

closing date will also be filed and will be considered to the fullest extent possible.

When the petition is granted or denied, notice of the decision will also be published in the **Federal Register** pursuant to the authority indicated at the end of this notice.

All comments, background documentation, and supporting materials submitted to the docket may be viewed by anyone at the address and times given above. The documents may also be viewed on the internet at <https://www.regulations.gov> by following the online instructions for accessing the dockets. The docket ID number for this petition is shown in the heading of this notice.

DOT's complete Privacy Act Statement is available for review in a **Federal Register** notice published on April 11, 2000 (65 FR 19477–78).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jayton Lindley, General Engineer, NHTSA, Office of Vehicle Safety Compliance, (325) 655–0547.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Overview: MNA determined that certain Michelin X Works D tires do not fully comply with paragraph S6.5(d) of FMVSS No. 119, *New Pneumatic Tires for Motor Vehicles with a GVWR of More Than 4,536 kilograms (10,000 pounds, Speciality Tires, and Tires for Motorcycles* (49 CFR 571.119).

MNA filed a noncompliance report dated December 16, 2022, and amended the report on January 11, 2023, pursuant to 49 CFR part 573, *Defect and Noncompliance Responsibility and Reports*. MNA petitioned NHTSA on January 10, 2023, for an exemption from the notification and remedy requirements of 49 U.S.C. Chapter 301 on the basis that this noncompliance is inconsequential as it relates to motor vehicle safety, pursuant to 49 U.S.C. 30118(d) and 30120(h) and 49 CFR part 556, *Exemption for Inconsequential Defect or Noncompliance*.

This notice of receipt of MNA's petition is published under 49 U.S.C. 30118 and 30120 and does not represent any agency decision or another exercise of judgment concerning the merits of the petition.

II. Tires Involved: Approximately 14,047 Michelin X Works D tires, manufactured between January 1, 2021, and September 14, 2022, were reported by the manufacturer.

III. Noncompliance: MNA explains that the noncompliance is that the maximum dual load in pounds is incorrectly marked on both sides of the tire and therefore does not comply with

paragraph S6.5 (d) of FMVSS No. 119. Specifically, the tires state the maximum dual load as 5,590 pounds at 120 psi, when they should state 6,005 pounds at 120 psi.

IV. Rule Requirements: Paragraph S6.5(d) of FMVSS No. 119, includes the requirements relevant to this petition. Except as specified in paragraph S6.5, each tire must be marked on each sidewall with the information specified in paragraphs (a) through (j) of paragraph S6.5.

V. Summary of MNA's Petition: The following views and arguments presented in this section, "V. Summary of MNA's Petition," are the views and arguments provided by MNA. They have not been evaluated by the Agency and do not reflect the views of the Agency. MNA describes the subject noncompliance and contends that the noncompliance is inconsequential as it relates to motor vehicle safety.

MNA explains that the subject noncompliance was detected during a review of markings for this tire line. MNA says that the mold drawings were corrected for future production upon detection of the subject noncompliance. MNA's investigation of the affected tires concluded that all tires produced with the marking error had entered the market.

First, MNA states that the subject tires were designed and manufactured in accordance with Tire and Rim Association standards, which specify a single max load of 3,000 kg (6,610 lbs) and a dual max load of 2,725 kg (6,005 lbs), both at an inflation pressure of 830 kPa (120 psi). Further, MNA asserts that the subject tires fully comply with all applicable FMVSS tire safety performance standards. MNA highlights that paragraph S7.2(a) of FMVSS No. 119 provides that endurance testing is conducted at the maximum single load value when the tire is marked with both single and dual maximum loads. MNA notes that the correct single load values in kilograms and pounds are marked on the tire. Further, MNA states that except for the max dual load marking in pounds on both sides of the tire, the affected tires correctly display all other required regulatory markings, including load range H corresponding to the designed maximum single load of 3,000 kilograms or 6,610 pounds, the maximum dual load of 2,725 kilograms, as well as the correct inflation pressure of 830 kPa or 120 psi.

MNA reiterates that the subject tires are properly marked with the maximum single and dual loads in kilograms, as well as the correct inflation pressure in kPa and psi. MNA explains that these

markings provide both dealers and fleets with the necessary information to enable proper selection and application of the tires. MNA says that if a dealer or fleet were to follow the erroneous maximum dual load in pounds marked on the subject tires, the resulting tire loading would be 55 pounds below the designed maximum dual load of this tire.

MNA states that it has taken corrective measures in production and all tires currently being produced have the correct marking.

MNA refers to the following NHTSA petition decisions that it contends are similar to the subject noncompliance:

- Michelin North America, Inc., docket number NHTSA–2006–25891, granted 22 December 2006.
- Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company, docket number NHTSA–2005–21269, granted 18 July 2005.

MNA concludes by stating its belief that the subject noncompliance is inconsequential as it relates to motor vehicle safety and its petition to be exempted from providing notification of the noncompliance, as required by 49 U.S.C. 30118, and a remedy for the noncompliance, as required by 49 U.S.C. 30120, should be granted.

NHTSA notes that the statutory provisions (49 U.S.C. 30118(d) and 30120(h)) that permit manufacturers to file petitions for a determination of inconsequentiality allow NHTSA to exempt manufacturers only from the duties found in sections 30118 and 30120, respectively, to notify owners, purchasers, and dealers of a defect or noncompliance and to remedy the defect or noncompliance. Therefore, any decision on this petition only applies to the subject tires that MNA no longer controlled at the time it determined that the noncompliance existed. However, any decision on this petition does not relieve tire distributors and dealers of the prohibitions on the sale, offer for sale, or introduction or delivery for introduction into interstate commerce of the noncompliant tires under their control after MNA notified them that the subject noncompliance existed.

(Authority: 49 U.S.C. 30118, 30120; delegations of authority at 49 CFR 1.95 and 501.8)

Otto G. Matheke III,

Director, Office of Vehicle Safety Compliance.

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