



John R McDonald
Head of Vehicle Safety and Regulatory Compliance –
North America

June 24, 2021

Dr. Steven Cliff, Acting Administrator
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
1200 New Jersey Ave. SE
Washington, DC 20590

Re: Recall 21V-434 (2017-2021 MY Maserati Levante, Tire Pressure Placard Noncompliance per Federal Motor Vehicle Standard 110) Petition for Determination of Inconsequential Noncompliance.

Dear Dr. Cliff:

Maserati North America, Inc. ("MNA") is a Delaware limited liability company with its principal place of business at 1 Chrysler Drive, Auburn Hills, MI 48326.

Pursuant to 49 CFR Part 556, MNA is petitioning for an exemption from the notification and remedy requirements of the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act because the noncompliance described below is inconsequential to motor vehicle safety.

This petition relates to MNA's safety noncompliance vehicle recall 422 (NHTSA recall 21V-434) which involves the incorrect values of recommended tire pressures on the vehicle placard that do not meet the tire pressure recommendation requirements of S4.3(c) of Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard ("FMVSS") No. 110. The Noncompliance Information Report was submitted to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration ("NHTSA") after MNA determined that approximately 2197 Maserati Levante vehicles built between July 14, 2016 and May 3, 2021, had noncompliant recommended tire pressure inflation values.

Description of the Noncompliance

MNA has determined that 2017-2021 MY Maserati Levante vehicles have a vehicle placard with incorrect tire pressures, resulting in a 49 CFR 571.110 (FMVSS 110) noncompliance.

FMVSS 110, S4.3, requires a permanently affixed vehicle placard to display the "vehicle manufacturer's recommended cold tire inflation pressure for front, rear and spare tires." The pressure shown is required to be appropriate for the vehicle's load limits. The recommended pressures are below the pressure required for the displayed load limits.

The rear 265/40 R21 (105Y) XL and 105W XL have an incorrect label pressure of 36 psi, the correct label pressure is 38 psi.



The front 265/35 ZR22 (102Y) XL has an incorrect label pressure of 33 psi, the correct label pressure is 36 psi.

The rear 295/30 ZR22 (103Y) XL has an incorrect label pressure of 36 psi, the correct label pressure is 40 psi.

Justification for Petition for a Determination of Inconsequentiality

For the reasons discussed below, and supported by tire manufacturer data, MNA submits that this technical noncompliance is inconsequential to motor vehicle safety:

- The incorrect pressure values are all within the range of acceptable tire inflation, and would not cause a Tire Pressure Monitoring System (“TPMS”) alert.
 - The affected Maserati Levante vehicles are compliant with FMVSS 138.
 - Consistent with FMVSS 138, the TPMS illuminates at equal to or less than the pressure 25 percent below the correct vehicle manufacturer’s recommended cold inflation pressure. The TPMS warning telltale will illuminate prior to the tire pressure dropping to the range of 24.7-27 PSI on the affected Maserati Levante vehicles, which is significantly above the 23.2 PSI requirement called out, and tested to, in FMVSS 139 (discussed below).

Maserati believes the warning provided by the TPMS will give drivers ample time to check and inflate tires well before low tire inflation becomes a safety concern.
- The subject tires passed a low inflation pressure performance test.
 - The affected Maserati Levante vehicles are equipped with tires that are compliant with FMVSS 139.
 - Tire manufacturers are required to certify the tires meet all applicable requirements of FMVSS 139.
 - FMVSS 139 specifies a low inflation pressure performance test in which the tire is loaded to its maximum tire load capacity and inflated to only 160 kPa (23.2 PSI), significantly less than the TPMS telltale activation pressure for the subject Maserati Levante vehicles. In order to pass this test, the tires are loaded to 100% of the tire’s maximum load carrying capacity and then run on a test axle for 1.5 hours at 23.2 PSI.
- MNA is not aware of any crashes, injuries, or customer complaints associated with this condition.
- NHTSA has previously granted inconsequential treatment for FMVSS 110 noncompliance for incorrect vehicle placard values; see examples below:
 - 2018MY Buick Regal Docket No. NHTSA-2018-0054
 - 2016 MY Volkswagen Beetle Convertible Docket No. NHTSA-2016-0028
 - 2016-2017 MY Mercedes Benz GLE and GLS Docket No. NHTSA-2016-0143



It is the belief of MNA that the information described above satisfies the intent of CFR 49 Part 556 and operators can safely utilize their vehicles for intended purposes. MNA believes that, pursuant to 49 CFR Part 556, 49 USC 30188(d) and 30120(h), the FMVSS 110 S4.3, vehicle placard recommended pressure noncompliance is inconsequential to motor vehicle safety and MNA should be exempted from the notification and remedy requirements of 49 CFR USC Chapter 301, "Motor Vehicle Safety" for the reasons supporting exemption cited above.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John R. McDonald".

John R. McDonald

Enclosures

CC: Enforcement_Correspond@dot.gov
Jennifer.kruger@dot.gov
Alex Ansley
Alexander.ansley@dot.gov
Chief, Recall Management Division

Part 573 Safety Recall Report

21V-434

Manufacturer Name : Maserati North America, Inc.**Submission Date :** JUN 07, 2021**NHTSA Recall No. :** 21V-434**Manufacturer Recall No. :** 422**Manufacturer Information :**

Manufacturer Name : Maserati North America, Inc.

Address : One Chrysler Drive
Auburn Hills MI 48326

Company phone : 877-969-2737

Population :

Number of potentially involved : 2,917

Estimated percentage with defect : 100 %

Vehicle Information :

Vehicle 1 : 2017-2021 MASERATI LEVANTE

Vehicle Type :

Body Style : SUV

Power Train : NR

Descriptive Information : Some 2017-2021 MY Maserati Levante vehicles with 21 inch and 22 inch tires may have been built with incorrect tire pressure values printed on the tire placard.

For 21 inch tires, the suspect period began on July 14, 2016 when placards with incorrect information were first introduced in vehicle production, and ended on May 3, 2021, when corrected placards were introduced into vehicle production. The suspect period was determined using vehicle production records.

For 22 inch tires, the suspect period began on July 4, 2018 when placards with incorrect information were first introduced in vehicle production, and ended on May 3, 2021, when corrected placards were introduced into vehicle production. The suspect period was determined using vehicle production records.

Similar vehicles that are not included in the recall were built before or after the suspect periods, were built with non-suspect 21 or 22 inch tires, or were not built with 21 or 22 inch tires.

Production Dates : JUL 14, 2016 - MAY 03, 2021

VIN Range 1 : Begin :

NR

End : NR

 Not sequential

Description of Noncompliance :

Description of the Noncompliance : Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard (FMVSS) No. 110, Tire Selection and Rims and Motor Home/Recreation Vehicle Trailer Load Carrying Capacity Information for Motor Vehicles with a GVWR of 4,536 kilograms (10,000 pounds) or less, requires a permanently affixed vehicle placard to display the "vehicle manufacturer's recommended cold tire inflation pressure for front, rear and spare tire." The placard pressures shown in suspect vehicles are incorrect, but are below the correct pressure required for the displayed load limits.

FMVSS 1 : 110 - Tire selection and rims

FMVSS 2 : NR

Description of the Safety Risk : Maserati believes that the noncompliance with FMVSS 571.110, in this instance, is inconsequential as it relates to motor vehicle safety, and intends to petition the NHTSA, pursuant to CFR Part 556, for exemption from the notification and remedy requirements.

Description of the Cause : NR

Identification of Any Warning that can Occur : NR

Involved Components :

Component Name 1 : Tire Plackard

Component Description : Label Info Tire Air Pressure (Tire Data Plate)

Component Part Number : 670039560

Supplier Identification :**Component Manufacturer**

Name : NR

Address : NR

NR

Country : NR

Chronology :

On May 28, 2021, Maserati determined that a noncompliance to FMVSS 110 existed in certain 2017 to 2021 MY Maserati Levante vehicles.

Description of Remedy :

Description of Remedy Program : Maserati intends to timely petition the NHTSA, pursuant to 49 CFR Part 556, for exemption from the notification and remedy requirements due to the inconsequentiality of the noncompliance as it relates to motor vehicle safety.

How Remedy Component Differs from Recalled Component : Vehicle manufacturing issue, not a component issue.

Identify How/When Recall Condition was Corrected in Production : NR

Recall Schedule :

Description of Recall Schedule : Maserati North America, Inc., plans to submit a petition for inconsequentiality on or before June 28, 2021.

Planned Dealer Notification Date : NR - NR

Planned Owner Notification Date : NR - NR

* NR - Not Reported