

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF INDIANA
INDIANAPOLIS DIVISION**

In re: BRIDGESTONE/FIRESTONE, INC.,) **Master File No. IP 00-9373-C-B/S**
TIRES PRODUCTS LIABILITY LITIGATION) **MDL NO. 1373**
_____))
THIS DOCUMENT RELATES TO ALL))
ACTIONS))

ENTRY FOR NOVEMBER 8, 2001

The parties appeared, by counsel, this date for a telephonic conference, during which the following was discussed and determined:

1. Firestone has not obtained discovery related to the forum non conveniens issue in six cases in which Mike Eidson represents the plaintiffs. Mr. Eidson reports that he expects to move to dismiss these six cases prior to November 30, 2001, due to problems with client communication.
2. Firestone also reported that it has not received complete, verified responses to its discovery requests in some of the cases in which Victor Diaz represents the plaintiffs. Mr. Diaz is in the process of obtaining the remaining responses, and will provide them to Firestone promptly. In addition, in light of the difficulty of obtaining notarized signatures in Venezuela, Mr. Diaz instead will obtain declarations under penalty of perjury from his clients pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1746.
3. The plaintiffs request, without objection from defendants, an extension of time to respond to Ford's motions in the personal injury cases regarding the availability of punitive damages under Michigan law. All of plaintiffs' responses to those motions shall be filed by **November 30, 2001**. Plaintiffs' liaison counsel shall be responsible for informing all personal injury plaintiffs' attorneys regarding this extension. Ford shall file its reply by **December 17, 2001**.
4. Ford reports that it is still in the process of determining the availability of the suspension kits which the plaintiffs have requested. Ford shall report to Mr. Diaz regarding this issue by **November 12, 2001**, so that any unresolved issues may be discussed during the magistrate judge's next status conference.
5. Finally, two problems with Ford's supplemental response to the plaintiffs' forum non conveniens discovery requests were raised by the plaintiffs. First, Ford has not yet provided a privilege log regarding the supplemental response. Ford reports that it will do so in its December 7, 2001, privilege log, and plaintiffs are agreeable to this. Second, Ford has not identified by Bates number which of the approximately 500,000 documents are responsive to which of the plaintiffs' requests. The magistrate judge **ORDERS** Ford to do so by **December 7, 2001**, as to all of the documents that are in English and those Spanish documents that are responsive to certain of the plaintiffs' requests that are particularly relevant to their supplemental response to the forum non

conveniens motion, to the extent that the plaintiffs identify such requests, by **December 7, 2001**, and by **January 4, 2002**, as to all of the remaining documents.

6. The magistrate judge will hold another telephonic pretrial conference on **Thursday, November 15, 2001, at 1:30 p.m.** to discuss additional discovery and case management issues. Local counsel for Ford shall make arrangements for the call and notify the court and all other parties regarding those arrangements.

ENTERED this _____ day of November 2001.

V. Sue Shields
United States Magistrate Judge
Southern District of Indiana

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