

**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 REGARDING THE USE OF VIDEOCONFERENCING  
TO CONDUCT DEPOSITIONS**

The magistrate judge, after considering the arguments of counsel on the issue, has determined that the use of videoconferencing to conduct certain depositions in this MDL is both appropriate and desirable. The magistrate judge determines that videoconferencing is not appropriate for the following categories of witnesses:

1. Parties;
2. Physicians who provided significant treatment to a party or decedent;
3. The lead investigating or reporting officer at a subject accident;
4. An eyewitness to a subject accident whose deposition is reasonably expected to take more than two hours;
5. Any witness who is expected to testify about more than forty documents during the course of his or her deposition.

Absent extraordinary circumstances, any witness who does not fall into one of these categories may be deposed via videoconferencing if requested by one or more parties.

The magistrate judge is confident that the parties will be able to stipulate to the necessary technical requirements and guidelines in those cases in which videoconferencing will be used, including the quality of the videoconferencing technology to be used and the use of translators. If, after the parties have conducted one or more depositions via videoconferencing, any party believes in good faith that the experience demonstrates the inefficacy of the process, the magistrate

judge will entertain a motion to reconsider this ruling.

ENTERED this \_\_\_\_\_ day of July 2002.

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

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