

**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 JULY 18, 2002

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

1. Victor Diaz, counsel for the plaintiffs, requested and was granted an extension to July 31, 2002, to submit the remainder of expert Stephen Arndt's expert reports. Mr. Diaz reported that the remainder of the case specific expert reports for his First Wave foreign accident cases have been served.
2. Robert Fernandez reported that all of the case specific expert reports for his First Wave foreign accident cases would be served by July 19, 2002.
3. The plaintiffs report that they designated expert Mel Richardson to replace expert Ian Jones. Mr. Richardson's reports shall be served by July 31, 2002, with responsive reports being due on August 30, 2002.
4. The plaintiffs report that they will be replacing the Ness Motley law firm with either Victor Diaz's law firm or Mike Eidson's law firm as the depository for deposition transcripts and exhibits.
5. The plaintiffs report that an additional cost assessment to the plaintiffs in this MDL will be necessary, and they will be filing the necessary motion within the next week or two.
6. The issue of the deadlines in the Second Wave and later foreign accident cases was

deferred until the next status conference, and the magistrate judge expects the parties to confer and attempt to agree upon those deadlines prior to the next conference.

7. The current deadline for the defendants' case specific expert reports in the First Wave foreign accident cases is August 12, 2002, or 30 days after the date the plaintiffs' actually served their reports in a given case, whichever is later. That deadline will be extended only for those reports in which the defendants can demonstrate that they were unable to submit their reports because they had not received necessary information from the plaintiffs. The pendency of a motion to compel in a given case will not, in and of itself, justify the extension of the expert deadline for all experts in that case.
8. The plaintiffs request and are granted an extension to today to file their response to the motion to compel in *Sanchez*, IP 01-5346.
9. The issue of the deposition of Dr. Miguel Bosso was discussed, and the magistrate judge ruled that the deposition will take place on July 19, 2002, as scheduled, with the defendants retaining the right to reopen the deposition as necessary if additional relevant medical records are obtained.
10. The parties agree that, absent **extraordinary** circumstances, no deposition will be cancelled less than seven days before its scheduled date.
11. The deadline for the parties to confer and submit their suggestions regarding how the class action portion of the MDL should proceed is extended to August 15, 2002.
12. The parties requested and are granted to August 15, 2002, to respond to the court's inquiry regarding the joint stipulation of dismissal in the *Valencia* case, IP 01-5216.

13. The magistrate judge confirms that the settlement conferences scheduled for August 7-9, 2002, in the Venezuelan cases are vacated.
14. The next telephonic discovery conference is scheduled for Monday, August 12, 2002, at noon. Robert Fernandez shall arrange the call and shall inform liaison counsel and the magistrate judge of the arrangements.

ENTERED this _____ day of July 2002.

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

Copies to:

Irwin B Levin
Cohen & Malad
136 North Delaware Street
P O Box 627
Indianapolis, IN 46204

William E Winingham
Wilson Kehoe & Winingham
2859 North Meridian Street
P.O. Box 1317
Indianapolis, IN 46206-1317

Randall Riggs
Locke Reynolds LLP
201 N. Illinois St., Suite 1000
P.O. Box 44961
Indianapolis, IN 46244-0961