

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20508

July 31, 2020

Dyalá Jiménez
Minister of Foreign Trade
Costa Rica

Victoria Hernández
Minister of Economy, Industry and Commerce
Costa Rica

Dear Ministers Jiménez and Hernández:

I have the honor to confirm the following understanding reached between the Government of the United States of America (“the United States”) and the Government of Costa Rica (“Costa Rica”) regarding Costa Rica’s conformity assessment procedures for new pneumatic tires:

The United States and Costa Rica have agreed that Costa Rica, pursuant to the RTCR 486: 2016 Reglamento Técnico para Llantas Neumáticas (RTCR 486: 2016 Technical Regulations for Pneumatic Tires) (“RTCR 486: 2016”), shall recognize letters issued by the United States Department of Transportation through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) pursuant to the Blue Ribbon Letter Program as satisfying compliance with Costa Rica’s conformity assessment procedures established in RTCR 486: 2016. The Blue Ribbon Letter Program confirms that the manufacturer affirms its self-certification that any listed product is manufactured to meet the requirements of the United States Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards (FMVSS), except as specifically noted, and that any pneumatic tire shipped that is covered by a letter belongs to a model that is sold in the U.S. market and is therefore subject to NHTSA’s authority.

This agreement applies to new pneumatic tires manufactured in the territory of the United States, imported for sale into the territory of Costa Rica, and classified in the following tariff lines of Costa Rica’s tariff schedule¹:

Item	Text of the subheading	Product
40.11.10.10.00	Radials	Pneumatic tires for passenger vehicles including campers (type II and type III tires)
40.11.10.90.00	Others	
40.11.20.10.00	Radials	

¹ Excluded from the application of RTCR 486: 2016 and this Agreement are tires that enter Costa Rica installed in vehicles and the imported vehicle’s spare tire (Original Equipment (OE) tires), as well as tires for agricultural and industrial use that are classified under other tariff headings.

40.11.20.90.00	Others	Pneumatic tires for buses or trucks (type IV tires)
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I have the honor to propose that this letter and your letter of confirmation in reply shall constitute an agreement between our governments and that this Agreement shall enter into force on the date of your letter of confirmation in reply.

Sincerely,



Daniel L. Watson
Assistant U.S. Trade Representative
for the Western Hemisphere, Acting

31 July 2020
DM-COR-CAE-0381-2020
DM-OF-0526-20

Daniel Watson
Assistant U.S. Trade Representative
for the Western Hemisphere, Acting
Office of the United States Trade Representative
Washington, DC

Dear Acting Assistant U.S. Trade Representative Watson:

I am pleased to acknowledge your letter of today's date, which reads as follows:

"I have the honor to confirm the following understanding reached between the Government of the United States of America ("the United States") and the Government of Costa Rica ("Costa Rica") regarding Costa Rica's conformity assessment procedures for new pneumatic tires:

The United States and Costa Rica have agreed that Costa Rica, pursuant to the RTCR 486: 2016 Reglamento Técnico para Llantas Neumáticas (RTCR 486: 2016 Technical Regulations for Pneumatic Tires) ("RTCR 486:2016"), shall recognize letters issued by the United States Department of Transportation through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) pursuant to the Blue Ribbon Letter Program as satisfying compliance with Costa Rica's conformity assessment procedures established in RTCR 486: 2016. The Blue Ribbon Letter Program confirms that the manufacturer affirms its self-certification that any listed product is manufactured to meet the requirements of the United States Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards (FMVSS), except as specifically noted, and that any pneumatic tire shipped that is covered by a letter belongs to a model that is sold in the U.S. market and is therefore subject to NHTSA's authority.

This agreement applies to new pneumatic tires manufactured in the territory of the United States, imported for sale into the territory of Costa Rica, and classified in the following tariff lines of Costa Rica's tariff schedule¹:

¹ Excluded from the application of RTCR 486: 2016 and this Agreement are tires that enter Costa Rica installed in vehicles and the imported vehicle's spare tire (Original Equipment (OE) tires), as well as tires for agricultural and industrial use that are classified under other tariff headings.



Item	Text of the subheading	Product
40.11.10.10.00	Radials	Pneumatic tires for passenger vehicles including campers (type II and type III tires)
40.11.10.90.00	Others	
40.11.20.10.00	Radials	Pneumatic tires for buses or trucks (type IV tires)
40.11.20.90.00	Others	

I have the honor to propose that this letter and your letter of confirmation in reply shall constitute an agreement between our Governments and that this Agreement shall enter into force on the date of your letter of confirmation in reply.”

I have the honor to confirm that the understanding referred to in your letter is shared by my Government, and that your letter and this reply shall constitute an Agreement between our Governments that shall enter into force as of this date.

Sincerely,

Dyalá Jiménez Figueres
Minister of Foreign Trade
Costa Rica

Victoria Hernández Mora
Minister of Economy, Industry and Commerce
Costa Rica