In hopes of having our concerns addressed, may we have the contact information for the Companies and individuals referred to in your E-mails. Safety is still our collective concern and it would be appropriate if these contacts can assist.

[redacted]

--- On Tue, 11/17/09, [redacted]:

From: [redacted]
Subject: RE: Winter tires
To: [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]
Received: Tuesday, November 17, 2009, 3:53 PM

[redacted]

I questioned Nokian on this issue and they responded as follows;

All C- type cars (vans , minibusses) where they use C / LT type tyres sizes 17 inch and below , they use in winter time same kind of special winter tyres both front and rear axles.
We do not fully agree [redacted] comment that `using winter tyres both front and rear axle they can increase risk of a spin or fistailing`.

As you know Nokian winter tires are currently installed on the rear of the subject vehicles.

Bridgestone tire has responded with the following;

In winter driving conditions, vehicle control and safe operation under braking and cornering is especially dependent upon the rear tires. For this reason, winter tires are best applied to all wheel positions, and a necessity if winter tires are applied to the front axle of any vehicle.

Some vehicles have specific recommendations regarding winter tires and their usage; always check and follow the vehicle placard and/or the vehicle owner's manual.

- Winter tires are best applied to all wheel positions

- If winter tires are applied to the front axle of any vehicle, they must also be installed on the rear. Do not apply winter tires to only the front axle – this applies to all passenger cars and light trucks, including front wheel drive, 4x4 and all-wheel drive vehicles

- If winter tires are installed on the rear axle of any vehicle, it is recommended, but not required, that they be installed on the front axle

I don't understand why you believe that highway speeds will result in instability if you install winter tires in all positions on a rear wheel drive but not on all wheel drive or front wheel drive. Our belief is that you need traction on the front tires as well as the rear tires so that you can decrease stopping distance and are able to steer the vehicle.

I would like to add that for many years I ice raced rear wheel drive and front wheel drive vehicles with winter tires on the front and rear and would not consider doing this if I only had winter tires on the rear.