

NEWS RELEASE



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Yokohama Rubber Wins Import Injunction of Counterfeit “DNA S. drive” due to Design Right Infringement

Tokyo - The Yokohama Rubber Co., Ltd., today announced that the Tokyo Customs Office, as of January 18, 2008, accepted the company's application for import injunction of counterfeit products of its “DNA S. drive” high-performance tires for passenger cars due to a charge that the counterfeit products infringing Yokohama Rubber's design rights were sold in Japan. As a result, all Customs Offices in Japan will prohibit the import of the counterfeit products from now on.

The counterfeit products for which Yokohama Rubber filed the import injunction request are the tires sold under a brand name of “SUMO FIRENZA ST-08” by Stamford Tyres International Pte. Ltd., a tire distributor of Singapore. The tread pattern design of “SUMO FIRENZA ST-08” is closely similar to that of “DNA S. drive” that has been sold by Yokohama Rubber since January 2005. Yokohama Rubber has become aware that SUMO FIRENZA ST-08 tires have been sold at some tire shops in Japan since the spring last year in Japan. In December last year, the company submitted an import injunction application to the Tokyo Customs Office after complaining to those tire shops and Stamford Tyres over the infringement of design rights.

Yokohama Rubber has registered the design rights for “DNA S. drive” in Japan, China, Hong Kong, Korea, Malaysia, Indonesia, Philippines, Australia, European Union (EU), Russia, South Africa and Brazil (Under examination in Thailand).

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