

**PATENT ASSIGNMENT**

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<b>SUBMISSION TYPE:</b>		NEW ASSIGNMENT
<b>NATURE OF CONVEYANCE:</b>		ASSIGNMENT
<b>CONVEYING PARTY DATA</b>		
<b>Name</b>		<b>Execution Date</b>
Mr. Francis J. Byrne		05/24/2007
<b>RECEIVING PARTY DATA</b>		
<b>Name:</b>	Bridgestone Firestone North American Tire, LLC	
<b>Street Address:</b>	535 Marriott Drive	
<b>City:</b>	Nashville	
<b>State/Country:</b>	TENNESSEE	
<b>Postal Code:</b>	37214	
<b>PROPERTY NUMBERS Total: 1</b>		
<b>Property Type</b>	<b>Number</b>	
Application Number:	11760015	
<b>CORRESPONDENCE DATA</b>		
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<b>ATTORNEY DOCKET NUMBER:</b>	P04100US1A	
<b>NAME OF SUBMITTER:</b>	Millie Persin	
<b>Total Attachments: 2</b>		
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**ASSIGNMENT**

I, Francis J. Byrne, 653 Springlake Drive, Franklin, TN 37064, have made an invention which now is described and claimed in an application for patent entitled Tread Blocks Having Reduced Edge Stiffness, which application

X is being executed and filed concurrently herewith.

~~X~~ was filed on 6/8/07 and now is designated as United States patent application number 11/760,015.

NOW THEREFORE, pursuant to the obligations imposed by or arising under one or more of my employment agreement(s), advisor agreement(s), state or national statutes, common law, and administrative regulation, I hereby do make the following assignments -

To **BRIDGESTONE FIRESTONE NORTH AMERICAN TIRE, LLC**, a corporation created and duly organized under the laws of the state of Delaware and having a place of business at 535 Marriott Drive, Nashville, Tennessee, 37214, and its successors and assigns, I hereby

- assign, transfer, and set over the full and exclusive right to the above-described invention and to the above-described application for letters patent of the United States as well as any substitute, continuation, continuation-in-part, or divisional application filed thereon, to any application for letters patent of the United States that claims priority from the above-described application, and to any letters patent of the United States that issues from such application(s) as well as any reissue application or request for reexamination filed on such letters patent;
- covenant and agree for myself and my legal representative(s) to
  - a) assist said assignee and/or its designee(s), to the extent requested, in the prosecution of said application for patent, in any interference declared on said application for patent or patent issuing therefrom, or in litigation which arises out of or is based on said application for patent or patent issuing therefrom, and
  - b) execute all papers related to said application for patent which said assignee or its designee(s) request to be signed,

provided that expenses relating thereto shall be borne by said assignee; and

- authorize and request the Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks to issue any letters patent of the United States relating to the above-described invention in the name of said assignee.

