



## British Leyland Motors Inc.

600 Willow Tree Road, Leonia, New Jersey 07605 Telephone (201) 461-7300 Telex 135491

March, 1977

### Safety Recall Campaign A999

Dear TR7 Owner:

This notice is sent to you in accordance with the requirements of the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act.

British Leyland Motors has determined that a defect which relates to motor vehicle safety exists in some of the Triumph TR7 vehicles that have been fitted with "spoker wheels".



SPOKER WHEEL



FACTORY WHEEL

If your car is fitted with FACTORY WHEELS as shown above, this notice does not concern you. If it is fitted with the SPOKER WHEELS shown on the left, then this notice may apply to you, and you should read on.

YOU SHOULD CONSIDER THAT THIS NOTICE APPLIES TO YOU IF AND ONLY IF:

1. YOUR CAR WAS PURCHASED NEW FROM A DEALER ON OR AFTER OCTOBER 1, 1976, OR
2. SPOKER WHEELS WERE PURCHASED SEPARATELY AFTER THAT DATE AND FITTED TO YOUR CAR.

Last summer British Leyland arranged for special TR7 spoker wheels to be made by a California wheel manufacturer. Spoker wheels manufactured up to approximately October 1, 1976 are considered to be entirely safe for road use. However, we recently learned that sample wheels produced after that date did not successfully withstand the metal fatigue test at the manufacturer's plant, and this has been confirmed by our own testing.

There have been no reports of wheel failure in road use, and nearly all the test failures have occurred above the equivalent of one year's normal road use. Nevertheless, caution dictates that all spoker wheels made after October 1, 1976 should be recalled and replaced.

The fatigue testing indicates the possibility that one of the wheel spokes may crack in use. If this should happen, it is not believed that the wheel will disintegrate or that the remaining spokes will not adequately support the weight. Visual inspection will show if any spoke has already cracked; in that case it is strongly recommended that you replace the wheel with the spare wheel and take the car to your dealer for immediate replacement of all wheels. In some cases, the owner may be warned of a crack in one of the spokes due to vibration when the vehicle is in motion, but this is not necessarily so. There may be no vibration. Failure to take any action and continued driving with a cracked wheel, could cause failure of other spokes or complete collapse of the wheel. This could result in total loss of vehicle control with resultant vehicle crash.

Even though inspection may reveal no cracks in any of the spokes, there is no assurance that one of the wheels may not break later, and you should not delay bringing the car to the dealer. Meanwhile, until the wheels have been replaced, it is recommended that you avoid fast driving over rough road surfaces or under other conditions of unusual stress.

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British Leyland has arranged for its Triumph dealers to replace, WITHOUT CHARGE TO THE OWNER, all spoker wheels shown by identification number to come from suspect wheel batches. Your dealer will first determine the code number on your wheels, and where necessary he will replace them with new spoker wheels on which your tires have been remounted and the wheels balanced. All this will be done without charge. It will take the dealer less than ten minutes to check the wheel codes and if he finds that replacement is necessary, less than two hours to do the job.

We emphasize that the dealer is not testing your wheels; he will be automatically replacing them on our instructions if they are identified by number as coming from a possibly faulty batch.

It is not practicable for replacement to be carried out other than by a Triumph dealer, because of the strict controls needed to ensure that the proper inspection is done, that replacement wheels are on hand, and that replaced suspect wheels are scrapped and rendered unusable. We recommend that you return your car to your selling dealer who will automatically have been allocated a suitable quantity of new replacement spoker wheels. It is anticipated that this supply of wheels will be available to the dealer by April 15, 1977.

You have a right to submit a complaint to the Administrator, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Washington, D. C. 20590, if you believe that British Leyland or any dealer is unable to remedy the defect without charge within a period of 60 days after you have tendered the car to a dealer for repair. However, new spoker wheels meeting all quality control requirements are now being shipped to distribution centers and dealers, and we anticipate that most dealers will be ready to start making the replacements by April 15, 1977.

Please be sure to sign the "Campaign Claim" form in the space provided and present it to your dealer at the appointed time. He will then process the claim for payment and we can be sure your vehicle has been corrected.

If you no longer own this vehicle, please refer to the instructions on the last page of the "Campaign Claim" form, and if possible, provide the name and address of the present owner so that we may contact him.

We greatly regret the inconvenience that this notice will cause to those TR7 owners to which it applies. While we accept full responsibility for the replacement of wheels, we

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want to assure you that the condition that brought this about resulted from a breakdown of the quality control procedures of the wheel manufacturer, and was not the result of any negligence or improper manufacturing procedures on the part of British Leyland.

Yours sincerely,



David J. Bate  
Service Quality Manager

DJB/cc

Provided Courtesy Triumph Wedge Owners Association  
<http://www.triumphwedgeowners.org>