



# NEWS RELEASE

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## FORMER DAYTON TIRE EMPLOYEES ELIGIBLE FOR TRADE BENEFITS *Special Status Granted to Laid-off Employees Under Trade Act of 1974*

OKLAHOMA CITY, OK – Former workers of the Dayton tire plant in Oklahoma City are eligible for the Trade Readjustment Assistance (TRA) program. The TRA program covers all displaced workers and on-site leased workers at the Dayton plant, a facility owned by Bridgestone/Firestone North America Tire. TRA provides assistance to those who lose jobs or significant work hours because of increased imports or a shift in production out of the country. TRA certified workers can access services such as income support, relocation and job search allowances, and health coverage tax credits. Those that need retraining for suitable employment may receive occupational training. The goal is to reconnect laid-off workers with suitable employment quickly.

In a recent ruling, the U.S. Department of Labor found that former Bridgestone/Firestone employees working at the Dayton facility meet all requirements to receive TRA according to the Trade Act of 1974 (19 USC 2273). There are three criteria to qualify for TRA. First, workers must be laid off or threatened with layoff. Next, employer sales or production must decrease. Finally, increased imports of products like or directly competitive with the firm's products must contribute to layoffs or the threat of layoffs. Once certified, TRA recipients must enroll in training, although the state can waive this requirement in certain cases.

Former employees of the Dayton facility are also eligible for Alternative Trade Adjustment Assistance (ATAA), a program that provides workers 50 years and older, for whom retraining may not be suitable, with the option of accepting re-employment at a lower wage in return for a wage subsidy.

The USDOL report concludes "all workers of Bridgestone/Firestone North America Tire LLC, a division of Bridgestone/Firestone Inc., including on-site leased workers of Unicco, Wedgeco, TCMS, Janiking, Boldt Construction, Atlantic Projects, FRI Electric, Duncan Equipment and Express Personnel, Oklahoma City, Okla., who became totally or partially separated from employment on or after August 29, 2005, through two years from the date of certification, are eligible to apply for adjustment assistance...and are also eligible to apply for alternative trade adjustment assistance..." The first day of eligibility (date of certification) is September 20, 2006. Separated employees who would like to take advantage of this assistance should contact their nearest Workforce Oklahoma Center at 1-888-980-WORK (9675).

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