



## Alabama Department of Industrial Relations

### News Release

For Immediate Release: January 23, 2012

### Employees of Michelin North America May Be Eligible for Additional Benefits

MONTGOMERY- Alabama Department of Industrial Relations Director Tom Surtees announced today that current and former employees of Michelin North America, Inc., located in Opelika, Alabama who were engaged in the production of passenger and light truck radial tires may be eligible for benefits under the federal Trade Adjustment Assistance Act of 2011. A petition filed on behalf of workers of Michelin North America, Inc., in Birmingham, Alabama was certified by the U.S. Department of Labor on December 28, 2011.

The U. S. Department of Labor found that the workers may have become unemployed as a result of increased imports. The petition covers periods of unemployment occurring on or after June 26, 2010 and before the termination date of December 28, 2013. Under the Trade Adjustment Assistance Act of 2011, displaced workers may be eligible for Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) benefits such as training, job search and relocation assistance, and Health Coverage Tax Credit (HCTC).

For additional information on the HCTC, they can call toll free 866-628-HCTC (4282), or visit the IRS website at [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov) (IRS Keyword: HCTC).

If workers have exhausted their cash benefits under other state and federal unemployment compensation programs, they could be eligible for additional weekly benefits equivalent to the amount they were receiving under other programs. In order to receive Trade Readjustment Allowance (TRA) benefits, workers must be enrolled in training the later of 26 weeks after the certification date or after their last qualifying separation or a waiver of the training requirement must be granted by the state Employment Service Division of the Alabama Department of Industrial Relations.

Michelin North America, Inc., Birmingham, Alabama was also certified for Re-employment Trade Adjustment Assistance (RTAA). Employees aged 50 and older who obtain full time employment after their separation from the affected employer may be eligible for allowances under the RTAA program.

Surtees stated that potentially eligible individuals will be notified individually as soon as they are identified.

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*Members of the media needing more information should contact Public Information Officer Jenna Murphy at (334) 353-1538.*