

# Firestone

World's Number 1  
Air Spring.



FIRESTONE INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTS COMPANY

## NEWS RELEASE

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## R4TECH HYBRID AIR SUSPENSION NOW AVAILABLE FROM FIRESTONE INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTS, SANLUIS RASSINI

INDIANAPOLIS (USA) (September 21, 2009) – Firestone Industrial Products Company, LLC introduces the new R4Tech™, a hybrid air/leaf suspension system featuring Firestone Ride-Rite™ air spring and SANLUIS Rassini® suspension technologies.

R4Tech, which replaces the factory leaf spring suspension, comprises a high-quality Firestone air spring and SANLUIS Rassini's leaf-spring suspension, positioned in a unique architecture to create a fully functional system that adjusts for varying load capacities. The suspension system delivers an improved ride at all times by utilizing the variable spring rate of the air spring to stiffen when the truck is loaded and soften when unloaded.

An upgrade over traditional solutions, R4Tech increases axle control during acceleration and braking for improved torque management and reduced wheel hop. The design allows the suspension to move at all load conditions, therefore isolating and absorbing road impact for passengers and cargo alike. Plus, less steel in the system reduces weight in the vehicle and improves fuel economy.



"By combining Firestone's knowledge and resources as the 'World's No. 1 Air Spring™' – including air suspension technology, air spring design, tech support, marketing and distribution – and Rassini's expertise in suspension systems, we have developed a premier suspension system that reduces the impact of the road on passengers, cargo and trailers," said Paul Fessel, automotive OE sales manager, Firestone Industrial Products Company. "R4Tech is ideal for enthusiasts hauling their thoroughbred horses, race cars or any other type of trailer because it helps prevent damage to important cargo."

The complete R4Tech system comes with the Rassini foundation suspension – including leaf plates, lower trailing link, J-spring, spring perches and mounting brackets – the Airide™ air spring and an air compressor control system that maintains the proper air level in the spring for the exact load you're carrying. Professional installation is recommended.

Trained technicians are available toll-free (800.888.0650) to answer any product application, installation or warranty questions Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. EST.

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**About Firestone:**

Firestone's Complete Suspension Solutions, which include Ride-Rite™, Sport-Rite™, Coil-Rite™ and Level-Rite™ air helper springs, as well as their complete line of air accessory systems, have become synonymous with quality, durability and outstanding customer support. For more information, visit [www.ride-rite.com](http://www.ride-rite.com).

Firestone Industrial Products Company, LLC, a subsidiary of Firestone Diversified Products, LLC, specializes in air spring manufacturing and technology with a history of more than 70 years of research and development of technologically advanced air springs for the global marketplace. With headquarters in Indianapolis, Ind., and quality-certified manufacturing/assembly plants and technical centers throughout North America, South America, Europe and Asia, the company produces suspension products for commercial trucks & trailers, cars, sport utility vehicles, light trucks, minivans, vans and motor homes. Firestone facilities are ISO-14001, ISO-9001 and TS-16949 Certified.

**About SANLUIS Rassini:**

SANLUIS Rassini® is the world's largest designer and manufacturer of leaf springs for light vehicles, a leader in the NAFTA and Brazilian markets, and also a key designer and manufacturer of high-tech brake system components in North America. Its components are used in different platforms, such as high performance options as well as light and commercial vehicles. SANLUIS Rassini has seven production sites strategically distributed in the U.S., Mexico and Brazil; a technical center in Michigan; headquarters in Mexico City; and liaison offices in Stuttgart, Germany, and Shanghai, China. The company is ISO/TS-16949, Clean Industry and ISO-14001 Certified. For more information, visit [www.sanluisrassini.com](http://www.sanluisrassini.com).

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