



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration**

ODI RESUME

Investigation: PE 04-059
Prompted By: EA04-009 & EA04-019
Date Opened: 08/12/2004
Principal Investigator: Tom Bowman
Subject: Wheel Separations

Manufacturer: Haulmark Industries, Inc.
Products: Haulmark MY 2003 Commercial Trailers
Population: 1700 (Estimated)

Problem Description: Wheel nuts can loosen, causing stud breakage and wheel separations in vehicles equipped with aluminum wheels that have excess paint/coatings in the wheel-hub mounting interfaces.

FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

	ODI	Manufacturer	Total
Complaints:	0	0	0
Crashes/Fires:	0	0	0
Injury Incidents:	0	0	0
# Injuries:	0	0	0
Fatality Incidents:	0	0	0
# Fatalities:	0	0	0
Other*:	0	0	0

*Description Of Other:

Action: Open a Preliminary Evaluation (PE).

Engineer: Thomas Bowman

Date: 08/12/2004

Div. Chief: Richard Boyd

Date: 08/12/2004

Office Dir.: Kathleen C. DeMeter

Date: 08/12/2004

Summary: ODI is investigating wheel mounting nut loosening resulting in wheel separations in towable recreational and commercial vehicles.

ODI has conducted investigations of wheel separations that occurred in Fleetwood (EA04-009) and Jayco (EA04-019) recreational vehicles. ODI's investigation found that coatings between the wheel mounting joint surfaces can be a significant factor that compromises the ability of the nuts to maintain clamp, which can lead to nut loosening and/or stud breakage, and ultimately result in a wheel separation. A wheel that separates from a vehicle at highway speeds poses a hazard to other users of the roadway and can affect the stability and safety of the affected vehicle.

Haulmark Industries, Inc. manufactures commercial trailers and purchases and installs wheel and hub equipment that is similar to the components that have resulted in wheel separations.

FAX TO JERRY MILLER
HAULMARK
574-825-4643
8/16/04
HMB