



U.S. Department
of Transportation
**National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration**

ODI RESUME

Investigation: PE 05-067
Date Opened: 12/08/2005
Principal Investigator: Nate Seymour
Subject: Suspension-Frame Cracks

Manufacturer: Heil Trailer International
Products: 2002-2005 Heil Pull Trailers
Population: 100 (estimated)

Problem Description: cracks may develop in the forward dolly frame assembly, which may result in a trailer separation.

FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

	ODI	Manufacturer	Total
Complaints:	1	0	0
Crashes/Fires:	1	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: A preliminary evaluation has been opened.

Engineer: Nate Seymour
Div. Chief: Richard Boyd
Office Dir.: Kathleen C. DeMeter

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Summary: ODI became aware of this problem as the result of an owner notification letter issued by Heil. Heil's letter advised owners to inspect the forward dolly frame and immediately remove from service all pull trailers, which exhibited cracks. The letter recommended that all trailers be retrofitted with a reinforcing plate, regardless of whether cracks were evident. The letter also stated that Heil would pay for the repair.

ODI has confirmed that one fleet experienced a complete separation of the forward dolly on a subject trailer (loaded fuel tanker), which resulted in a roadside emergency on a public roadway.

Given the warning issued by Heil in the letter and given the fleet confirmation of an in use trailer separation, ODI is very concerned about this matter and therefore an investigation has been opened.