U.S. Department of Transportation

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

ODI RESUME

OFFICE OF DEFECTS INVESTIGATION

NHTSA

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Investigation: EQ 11-004
Prompted by: 11E-008
Date Opened: 08/04/2011
Investigator: Alexander Ansley
Approver: Jennifer Timian
Subject: Gunite Slack Adjusters Breaking

MANUFACTURER & PRODUCT INFORMATION

Manufacturer: ACCURIDE CORPORATION
Products: Multiple model & lot numbers made 10/15/2010 - 1/31/2011
Population: 37,474

Problem Description: Certain Gunite branded automatic slack adjusters may break, reducing vehicle braking capability.

FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

	ODI	Manufacturer	Total
Complaints:	0	TBD	TBD
Crashes/Fires:	0	TBD	TBD
Injury Incidents:	0	TBD	TBD
Fatality Incidents:	0	TBD	TBD
Other*:	0	TBD	TBD

***Description of Other:**

ACTION / SUMMARY INFORMATION

Action: Open Equipment Query

Summary:

On February 23, 2011, Accuride Corporation notified the NHTSA that it had decided certain Gunite branded automatic slack adjusters contain a safety related defect. Accuride stated that certain slack adjusters, manufactured between October 15, 2010, and January 31, 2011, contain inadequate structural integrity at the slack adjuster housing due to inadequate "knitting" of the iron at the time of casting. This inadequate structural integrity could cause the housing to break at the handle under normal operating loads. If the slack adjuster were to break, the wheel brake to which the slack adjuster is attached would no longer function, causing the vehicle to have reduced braking capacity and, if mounted on the steer axle, the vehicle could pull to one side, possibly resulting in a crash. This issue was assigned recall number 11E-008.

Since the filing of Accuride's Defect Report in February, eleven vehicle manufacturers have submitted subsequent Defect Reports for vehicles they produced with these slack adjusters. However, according to Accuride's purchaser list, another roughly twenty-two vehicle manufacturers received these slack adjusters to use as original equipment in their vehicles.

The purpose of this EQ is to write to any other companies that might have purchased this equipment, notify them of this defect in any vehicles they manufactured, and to ensure thorough safety recalls are conducted where appropriate.