U.S. Department of Transportation

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

ODI RESUME

OFFICE OF DEFECTS INVESTIGATION

NHTSA

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Investigation: EQ 12-003
Prompted by: 11E-057
Date Opened: 03/07/2012
Investigator: Alexander Ansley
Approver: Jennifer Timian
Subject: Dexter Hydraulic Brake Actuators Failing

MANUFACTURER & PRODUCT INFORMATION

Manufacturer: DEXTER AXLE
Products: Brake actuators shipped 9/1/2011 - 12/19/2011
Population: 1,713

Problem Description: Certain Dexter Axle brake actuator pumps may be prone to premature wear and experience failure.

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 EQ

Summary:

On December 20, 2011, Dexter Axle Company (Dexter) notified the NHTSA that it had decided a defect exists in certain electric/hydraulic (e/h) brake actuator pumps sold for use on various trailers. Some of these pumps may have not been properly heat treated. This condition can cause premature wear of some critical components in these pumps which can render the unit inoperable. The e/h brake actuator provides braking power to the trailer brakes. Failure of the actuator can result in the loss of braking effort by the trailer, increasing the risk of a crash. This issue was assigned recall number 11E-057.

Dexter supplied a list of various trailer manufacturers that might have incorporated these brake actuator pumps into new vehicles. Many of the units were also sold to equipment distributors, which may have further supplied additional trailer manufacturers. These trailer manufacturers and distributors will be contacted in the course of this equipment query.

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.