



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration**

ODI RESUME

OFFICE OF DEFECTS INVESTIGATION



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Investigation: PE 13-039
Date Opened: 12/09/2013
Investigator: Peter Kivett
Approver: Frank Borris
Subject: Pintle Hook Loop Failure

Date Closed: 09/11/2014
Reviewer: Bruce York-B

MANUFACTURER & PRODUCT INFORMATION

Manufacturer: Utility Trailer Manufacturing Company
Products: 4000D, 4000DX & 3000R Trailers Built Apr 2012 - May 2013
Population: 2,098

Problem Description: The pintle hook loop for the secondary (safety) chains may fail.

FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

	ODI	Manufacturer	Total
Complaints:	0	0	0
Crashes/Fires:	0	0	0
Injury Incidents:	0	0	0
Fatality Incidents:	0	0	0
Other*:	0	1	1

***Description of Other:** Service bulletin describing procedure to inspect the pintle hook.

ACTION / SUMMARY INFORMATION

Action: This Preliminary Evaluation is closed. See Recall 14V-463.

Summary:

The Office of Defects Investigations (ODI) opened this Preliminary Evaluation based on its review of a service bulletin submitted by Utility Trailer Manufacturing Company (Utility).

The Service Bulletin (SB-07-011), contained in Utility's July 2013 579.5 monthly submission, instructed owners of subject trailers to conduct an inspection of the pintle hook loop. The inspection procedure involved striking the loop with a 10 pound sledge hammer and then inspecting it for cracks. Due to a material defect, Utility informed owners there was a potential for the loop (that secures the trailers safety chains) to crack and fail. If the loop fails, this redundant safety component becomes ineffective in retaining the trailer to the towing vehicle should the primary hitch fail or otherwise disconnect. A trailer that has separated from its towing vehicle presents a risk to motor vehicle safety.

On July 30th 2014 Utility trailer submitted a voluntary safety recall notice (14V-463) for pintle hook safety chain loop failures. The recall involves certain model year 2012-2014 VS1RA, and 2013-2014 VS1DC, VS2DX, VS2RA, VS3DX, and VS3RA trailers manufactured from April 2011 to May 2013. Utility trailer dealers will inspect and replace the pintle hook safety chain loop as required.

This Preliminary Evaluation is closed.