



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

Reviewer: Bruce York-B

MANUFACTURER & PRODUCT INFORMATION

Manufacturer: UTILITY TRAILER MANUFACTURING COMPANY
Products: 4000D, 4000DX & 3000R Trailers Built from Apr. 2012-May 2013
Population: 500 (Estimated)
Problem Description: The pintle hook loop for the secondary (safety) chains may fail due to material defects.

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 pintle hook

ACTION / SUMMARY INFORMATION

Action: This Preliminary Evaluation (PE) is opened.

Summary:

This PE is opened based on a service bulletin submitted by Utility Trailer Manufacturing Company (Utility). The Service Bulletin (SB-07-011,) contained in their July 2013 579.5 monthly submission, pertains to an inspection of the Pintle Hook Loop. Due to a potential material defect, there is a possibility for the loop that secures a 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 from the towed vehicle due to improper attachment.

The procedure for checking the loop is to use a 10lb. sledge hammer and strike the loop in two directions followed by an inspection to check for any cracks. The Office of Defects Investigations is opening this PE to assess the risks associated with the alleged defect.