U.S. Department of Transportation

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

ODI RESUME

OFFICE OF DEFECTS INVESTIGATION

NHTSA

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Investigation: EQ 14-010
Prompted by: 14E-024
Date Opened: 08/25/2014 **Date Closed:** 12/16/2014
Investigator: Cynthia Glass
Approver: Jennifer Timian
Subject: Suspension Pivot Bolt Failure

MANUFACTURER & PRODUCT INFORMATION

Manufacturer: SAF-Holland
Products: CXB series trailer suspension air ride axle systems
Population: 11,259

Problem Description: CXB series trailer suspension air ride axle systems pivot bolts may crack or fracture, causing separation of the axle/suspension assembly from the trailer.

ACTION / SUMMARY INFORMATION

Action: This EQ investigation is Closed.

Summary:

See the attached closing report.

EQ 14-010: CXB-series Trailer Suspension Air Ride Axle Systems Pivot Bolt Failure
Closing Report

December 10, 2014

BACKGROUND

On May 19, 2014, SAF-Holland, Inc. (SAF-Holland) notified the NHTSA that it decided a defect exists in certain CXB series trailer suspension air ride axle systems. Defective pivot bolts, part number 93201070, were used to manufacture CXB-series trailer suspension air ride axle systems between October 8, 2013 and November 30, 2013. The affected pivot bolts may experience an inter-granular quench crack where the bolt head meets the body of the bolt. If the bolt cracks, it could fracture, causing separation of the axle/suspension assembly from the trailer and increasing the risk of a vehicle crash. This matter was assigned recall number 14E-024.

On August 25, 2014, the Recall Management Division (RMD) opened this Equipment Query (EQ) Investigation in order to write the companies that purchased these CXB-series trailer suspension air ride axle systems, to notify them of this defect in any vehicle or vehicle equipment they manufactured, and to ensure thorough safety recalls are conducted where appropriate.

Prior to opening this EQ investigation, one vehicle manufacturer, Manac Trailer, USA emailed RMD explaining that the vehicles manufactured with these CXB-series trailer suspension air ride axle systems were not shipped to the United States. Therefore, Manac Trailer, USA is not conducting a recall.

Prior to opening this EQ investigation, twelve (12) vehicle manufacturers filed a defect report announcing their decision to conduct a safety recall for their affected vehicles. The vehicle recall campaigns are:

Manufacturer	Recall #
Dakota Trailers Manufacturing Inc.	14V-504
Greenfield Products	14V-454
Jet Company Inc.	14V-538
Polar Tank Trailer, LLC	14V-594
Stoughton Trailers, LLC.	14V-268
Strick Corporation	14V-497
Timpte Inc.	14V-458
Truck Equipment Service Company	14V-448
Vanco USA, LLC.	14V-474
Vanguard National Trailer Corporation	14V-546
VT Hackney, Inc.	14V-493
Wilson Trailer Company	14V-492

In their 573 Defect Notification Report, SAF-Holland provided a customer list consisting of the companies who purchased these CXB-series trailer suspension air ride axle systems. On October 7, 2014, an Information Request (IR) letter was sent to the purchasers for which NHTSA had not been notified of a defect decision.

VEHICLE MANUFACTURER RESPONSE

In response to the IR letter, two vehicle manufacturers, Innovative Trailer Design Industries and Wabash National Corporation, filed defect reports and indicated they would conduct a recall of their vehicles. The recall campaigns are: Innovative Trailer Design Industries (14V-724) and Wabash National Corporation (14V-702).

In response to the IR letter, two vehicle manufacturers, Trail King Industries and Tycrop Manufacturing, submitted responses explaining that the defective CXB-series trailer suspension air ride axle systems were quarantined in their facility, were not installed on any of their vehicles, and were returned to SAF-Holland and remedied prior to installation or sale. Accordingly, Trail King Industries and Tycrop Manufacturing are not conducting recall campaigns.

In response to the IR letter, Golden West Trailers and Equipment, Ltd. submitted a response explaining that it is not a vehicle manufacturer, it is a dealership. Accordingly, Golden West Trailers and Equipment, Ltd. is not conducting a recall campaign.

In response to the IR letter, two vehicle manufacturers Pitts Enterprises, Inc. and Merritt Equipment Company, submitted responses explaining that they have no record of purchasing the defective CXB-series trailer suspension air ride axle systems from SAF-Holland. Accordingly, Pitts Enterprises, Inc. and Merritt Equipment Company are not conducting recall campaigns.

In response to the IR letter, six vehicle manufacturers submitted responses explaining that the vehicles manufactured with the defective CXB-series trailer suspension air ride axle systems were manufactured in Canada. None of these vehicles were exported to the United States. Accordingly, the following manufacturers are not conducting recall campaigns:

Center Line Tank & Trailer Manufacturing
Cross Country Manufacturing, Inc.
Great Dane Trailers LLP
Hercules Enterprises
Max-Atlas Equipment Inc.
Southland Trailers Corporation

RECALL MANAGEMENT DIVISION ACTION

All vehicle and motor vehicle equipment manufacturers who purchased the defective CXB-series trailer suspension air ride axle systems have been identified and have either filed recall reports and are conducting recalls, or have provided sufficient responses explaining why they are not conducting recalls. Accordingly, this equipment query investigation is closed. Copies of documents associated with this investigation, including responses to IR letters, can be found in this Equipment Query's document repository by clicking the "Associated Documents" button.