U.S. Department
of Transportation
**National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration**

1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

Via USPS Certified Mail

West-Mark Inc.
Attn: Service Manager
P.O. Box 100
Ceres, CA 95307

NEF-150
EQ 15-006
15E-017

Subject: Safety Recall 15E-017

Dear Service Manager:

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's (NHTSA), Office of Defects Investigation (ODI), Recall Management Division (RMD) is conducting an equipment query (EQ) investigation in relation to certain Haldex Commercial Vehicle Systems (Haldex) life seal type 30/30 long stroke air brake actuators. This investigation has been assigned the identification number ***EQ 15-006***.

In a letter dated March 4, 2015, Haldex notified the NHTSA that it decided a defect exists in certain Haldex life seal type 30/30 long stroke air brake actuators. The affected actuators may have an incomplete attachment in the actuation mechanism of the parking brake assembly. If the diaphragm is not completely attached, it can potentially trap air pressure in the parking brake assembly. If not vented, this air pressure may prevent full function of parking brake, which can cause brake drag that results in overheated brakes, ultimately increasing the risk of fire. This matter was assigned recall number 15E-017. A copy of the notification is enclosed for your information.

Haldex reported to NHTSA that it sold these Haldex life seal type 30/30 long stroke air brake actuators to Hendrickson USA, L.L.C. for possible distribution to manufacturers for installation into vehicles. Hendrickson provided NHTSA a purchaser list identifying West-Mark Inc. as receiving possibly affected trailer suspension assemblies and/or other axle equipment. The purpose of this letter is to make you aware of a potential safety defect in vehicles your company may have manufactured, and to remind you of your responsibility under Federal Law.

Manufacturers of motor vehicles sold, offered for sale, delivered, or imported into the United States must notify NHTSA, within five (5) business days, when they first learn a safety defect or a noncompliance with a Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard exists in one of their vehicles. In the case of a defect or noncompliance in original equipment installed in the vehicles of more than one manufacturer, notification to NHTSA must be made by the original equipment

manufacturer as to the equipment item, and by each vehicle manufacturer as to those vehicles it manufactured in which the defective equipment was installed. The content of that notification is specified in 49 U.S.C. 573.6, Defect and Noncompliance Information Report. As of this date, we have not received the required report from your company. The notification and information report must be submitted electronically through the agency's Recall Portal. To access the portal and register as a manufacturer, go to: http://www.safercar.gov/Vehicle+Manufacturers and use the appropriate link on the left side of the page. Questions concerning how to register for an account and other issues associated with use of the portal may be directed to the Recalls Portal Helpdesk toll free at 1-888-719-9220 or by email at recalls.helpdesk@dot.gov.
Hard and E-mailed copies are not accepted.

In view of this safety risk and your company's obligations under Federal law, should you decide your vehicles contain a safety defect, you must notify NHTSA of that decision and file a defect information report. We are also reminding your company that it is required to issue timely notification to owners who may have purchased vehicles with the Haldex life seal type 30/30 long stroke air brake actuators. In advance of issuing its owner notification letters, your company must submit a draft of its letter to NHTSA for review. Your company is reminded that this letter must meet the requirements of 49 CFR 577.5, "Notification pursuant to a manufacturer's decision." Your company is further reminded that notifications must be sent to those persons registered under State law as the owners of the vehicles. If particular owners cannot be reasonably ascertained by State records, notifications must be sent to those persons you identify as the most recent purchasers. We are also reminding your company that it is required to notify dealers and distributors as required by 49 CFR 577.13.

In addition to the Defect Information Report and the draft owner notification letter, please also provide a proposed schedule for conducting the required owner and dealer notifications that includes the following information:

a. the estimated dates on which the owner notifications will occur (both mailing start date and end date);
b. the estimated date on which the dealer notifications will occur.

Please further note that you must file six quarterly recall status reports as required by 49 CFR 573.7. These reports are to be filed beginning with the quarter in which notification to owners begins. Quarterly recall status reports are also submitted through the agency's Recall Portal.

If your company has not received any of this equipment, or if your products are not available to be sold, offered for sale, delivered, or imported into the United States, please so state. If your company does not agree that vehicles it manufactured with these Haldex life seal type 30/30 long stroke air brake actuators are defective, and therefore will not conduct a safety recall of the vehicles, you must submit a written response explaining that decision and include all supporting documents, analysis, and/or test reports. DO NOT submit that response or any materials through the Recalls Portal. Rather, send correspondence and materials directly to Pedro Bonilla of my staff at pedro.bonilla@dot.gov

This letter is being sent to your company pursuant to 49 U.S.C. § 30166, which authorizes NHTSA to conduct any investigation that may be necessary to enforce Chapter 301 of Title 49. Your company's failure to respond promptly and fully to this letter could subject your company to civil penalties pursuant to 49 U.S.C. § 30165 or lead to an action for injunctive relief pursuant to 49 U.S.C. § 30163.

If your company claims that any of the information or documents provided in response to this information request constitute confidential commercial material within the meaning of 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(4), or are protected from disclosure pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1905, your company must submit supporting information together with the materials that are the subject of the confidentiality request, in accordance with 49 CFR Part 512, as amended (69 Fed. Reg. 21409 et seq; April 21, 2004), to the Office of Chief Counsel (NCC-111), National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Room W41-227, 1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E., Washington, D.C. 20590. Your company is required to submit two copies of the documents containing allegedly confidential information (except only one copy of blueprints) and one copy of the documents from which information claimed to be confidential has been deleted. Please remember that the word "CONFIDENTIAL" must appear at the top of each page containing information claimed to be confidential, and the information must be clearly identified in accordance with 5 U.S.C. § 512.6.

Whether your company is filing a recall notice and information report, or filing an explanation, that information is due within 10 days of receiving this letter. In your response, please be certain to include a reference to this matter's identification number which is ***EQ 15-006.***

If you have any questions concerning this matter, please contact Pedro Bonilla at (202) 366-5801 or by e-mail at pedro.bonilla@dot.gov.

Sincerely,



Jennifer Timian
Chief, Recall Management Division
Office of Defects Investigation
Enforcement

Enclosure: Recall 15E-017

U.S. Department of Transportation

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

ODI RESUME

OFFICE OF DEFECTS INVESTIGATION
NHTSA
Authentic US Government Information
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
uses a **digital certificate** to ensure
the content has remained unchanged

Investigation:	EQ 15-006
Prompted by:	15E-017
Date Opened:	12/07/2015
Investigator:	Pedro Bonilla
Approver:	Jennifer Timian
Subject:	Improperly Seated Brake Diaphragm

MANUFACTURER & PRODUCT INFORMATION

Manufacturer:	Haldex Commercial Vehicle Systems
Products:	Haldex Life Seal Type 30/30 Air Brake Actuators
Population:	26,246 (Estimated)
Problem Description:	The actuators may have an incomplete attachment of the parking brake section of the life seal actuator.

ACTION / SUMMARY INFORMATION

Action: Open EQ Investigation.

Summary:

In a letter dated March 4, 2015, Haldex notified the NHTSA that it decided a defect exists in certain Haldex life seal type 30/30 long stroke air brake actuators. The affected actuators may have an incomplete attachment in the actuation mechanism of the parking brake assembly. If the diaphragm is not completely attached, it can potentially trap air pressure in the parking brake assembly. If not vented, this air pressure may prevent full function of parking brake, which can cause brake drag that results in overheated brakes, ultimately increasing the risk of fire. This matter was assigned recall number 15E-017.

Haldex provided NHTSA with a purchaser list identifying the manufacturers who potentially incorporated these brake actuators into their vehicles. However, at this time, a Part 573 Report has not been filed by all of these potentially affected manufacturers.

The purpose of this EQ investigation is to write to the remaining companies that purchased these Haldex brake actuators, notify them of this defect, and request similar defect decisions be made on their vehicles, or inform RMD why a safety defect decision is not appropriate on their vehicles.