

04E-022 (1/3)

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2004 MAR 23 A 11:40
D.F.S. BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION



March 19, 2004

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Via Facsimile and First-Class Mail

Mr. Ken Weinstein
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
400 Seventh Street, S.W.
Room 5321
Washington, D.C. 20590

Erika Z. Jones
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Dear Mr. Weinstein:

On behalf of Durakon Industries, Inc., I am filing the enclosed Defect Information Request.

Please call me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Erika Z. Jones
Erika Z. Jones

Enclosure

DEFECT INFORMATION REPORT

1. **Manufacturer's name/address:** Durakon Industries, Inc., 2101 N. Lapeer Road, Lapeer, MI 48446
2. **Equipment involved in this defect notification:** Aftermarket pickup truck over-the-rail ("OTR") bedliners manufactured for installation on Chevrolet Silverado and GMC Sierra 2003-TD pickup trucks.
3. **Total number of items of equipment:** Approximately 8,000 bedliners manufactured after August 1, 2003. The model names of the affected products are the AllStar (6.5 foot and 8 foot) and the Patriot (6.5 foot and 8 foot).
4. **Approximate percentage of equipment estimated to actually contain the defect:** Durakon does not know the percentage actually containing the defect; therefore, this notification and remedy campaign will include 100% of the equipment identified in item 3.
5. **Description of the defect:** The toggle wing assembly used to attach the bedliner to the pickup truck bed is not engaging fully in the stake pocket of the pickup truck bed. As a consequence, the bedliner can become detached from the pickup truck bed and separate from the vehicle. This event does not pose any safety hazard to the pickup truck occupants, but could pose a hazard to a following vehicle that may have to swerve suddenly to avoid the bedliner in the highway. Prior to August 1, 2003, the bedliners were fastened to the pickup trucks by means of a cam lock, which does not present the same risk of nonengagement.
6. **Chronological summary of events leading to this determination:** Durakon has recently been made aware of several reports of AllStar and Patriot OTR bedliners dislodging from pickup trucks operating on highways. After a brief internal investigation, Durakon determined that the bedliner installation method on the subject items of equipment was inadequate to ensure proper retention of the bedliner in the pickup truck bed due to a change, which Durakon was unaware of, to the sheet metal of the stake pocket. On Friday, March 12, 2004, Durakon notified its distributors to stop sale of the bedliners and began preparations to notify NHTSA. A copy of this notification is enclosed with this notice in compliance with 49 C.F.R. §573.6(c)(9).
7. **Description of proposed remedy:** Durakon is still developing the remedy and will supplement this report when the remedy is developed in the near future.
8. **Program for remedy campaign (including program for reimbursing any consumer who obtained the remedy at his/her own expense):** Durakon is still developing the remedy and will supplement this report when the remedy is developed in the near future. Durakon is working to see whether it can obtain names and addresses of purchasers from its dealers and distributors. If it can do so, it will provide notice to them as required by 49 C.F.R. Part 577. A draft owner notification will be prepared and provided for NHTSA's review when this report is supplemented to provide information about the remedy. Durakon also plans to post notice of this recall on its website and plans to prepare and issue a press release to seek additional publicity about the recall.

As all affected units are still covered by the terms of the warranty that was provided to customers of the bedliners, owners would not have incurred expenses in connection with this issue, and there is no need for a reimbursement plan as part of this campaign.



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PIB #: 200407

DATE: March 11, 2004

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SUBJECT: Chevy Silverado/GMC Sierra Over Rail Installation Notification

Due to recently discovered sheet metal changes on Chevy Silverado vehicles, Durakon requires that you suspend all over-rail Allstar/Patriot bedliner sales for the 1999-2004 Chevy Silverado/GMC Sierra at this time.

You should immediately direct your dealers to suspend all sales of these products until they receive the necessary changes. If you prefer, Durakon will notify your dealers if you provide us with their name, address, and fax number.

Our Engineering department will finalize the necessary changes to ensure proper installation by early next week. We understand the importance of responding quickly to this situation and value your patience during the process. You will be notified immediately as soon as changes are finalized.

The following applications are affected:

| | | | |
|----------|---------------------------|---------|------|
| 0250962B | Chevrolet Silverado 99 TD | Allstar | 6.5' |
| 2000962B | Liner | | |
| 0180086B | Tailgate | | |
| 1206821 | Liner Kit | | |
| 1206835 | Tailgate Kit | | |
| 0250963B | Chevrolet Silverado 99TD | Allstar | 8' |
| 2000963B | Liner | | |
| 0180086B | Tailgate | | |
| 1206820 | Liner Kit | | |
| 1206835 | Tailgate Kit | | |
| 0350962 | Chevrolet Silverado 99 TD | Patriot | 6.5' |
| 3000962 | Liner | | |
| 0190086 | Tailgate | | |
| 1206821 | Liner Kit | | |
| 1206835 | Tailgate Kit | | |
| 0350963 | Chevrolet Silverado 99TD | Patriot | 8' |
| 3000963 | Liner | | |
| 0190086 | Tailgate | | |
| 1206820 | Liner Kit | | |
| 1206835 | Tailgate Kit | | |

Additional copies of this Product Information Bulletin and additional information are available by contacting Customer Support at (800) 933-4200 during normal business hours.

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