



## Great Dane Trailers

04V-053 ① of ③

February 4, 2004

**VIA CERTIFIED MAIL**

Ms. Kathleen DeMeter  
Office of Defect Investigation  
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration  
400 Seventh Street S.W. NSA-11  
Washington, DC 20590

Re: EQ04-002

Dear Ms. DeMeter:

Great Dane Trailers has been advised that Webb Wheel Products, Inc has decided that a defect which relates to motor vehicle safety exists in the item of motor vehicle equipment described below and is furnishing notification to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration in accordance with 49 CFR part 573, "Defect and Noncompliance Reports." This notification relates to NHTSA campaign number: 04B-002.

1. The name of the manufacturer is Great Dane Trailers, and the products are sold under the "Great Dane" brand name.
2. The item(s) of equipment containing a defect is the Webb "Platinum Series" brake drums with cast date codes of 017-01 to 273-02 (Julian style date).
3. The total number of vehicles manufactured and sold by Great Dane Trailers during the relevant time period was 5045 units.
4. Webb Wheel Products, Inc., has decided that a defect exists in the "Platinum Series" drums due to a higher than expected warranty return rate suggesting the potential for increased brake drum failure with these brake drums. The consequences of this can cause: 1. premature cracking of the braking surface resulting in the following: a. reduction or complete loss of braking on that wheel end. b. Loss of brake drum pieces resulting in further damage. 2. Excessive runout of the braking surface causing cam rollover resulting in the loss of braking on that wheel end.

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NETSA

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5. See attached Webb notice
6. See attached Webb notice
7. See attached Webb notice
8. The program for providing a remedy without charge for the defect is as follows: Webb will supply inspection instructions. Webb will pay for inspection of the vehicles. Webb will pay for the removal of the "Platinum Series" drums and reinstallation of the "Platinum Series" drums if they are acceptable for further use, or the installation of new replacement drums. Where vehicles have "Platinum Series" drums that are not acceptable for reuse, Webb will pay a one time allowance \$105 per brake drum for the purchase of a replacement brake drum.
9. Webb will conduct the owner notification. Great Dams Trailers is in the process of compiling owner contact information and trailer VIN's for the trailers with the affected "Platinum Series" brake drums. A draft copy of the proposed recall notice to trailer purchasers, fleets and end users has been, or will be, provided by Webb Wheel Products, Inc. to NETSA.

If you have any questions, please contact the undersigned.

Very truly yours,



Barry A. Mitchell  
Customer Service/Warranty Manager



Webb Wheel Products, Inc. • 2310 Industrial Drive, S.W. • Griffin, Alabama 36068

January 8, 2004

Ms. Kathleen DeMeter  
Director of Defects Investigation  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration  
400 Seventh Street SW  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Ms. DeMeter:

Enclosed please find the original documents of the Part 573 Defect and Noncompliance Report notification that was submitted January 7, 2004.

If you have any questions please call.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John C. Hall". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

John C. Hall  
VP Engineering  
256-775-7507 - direct  
256-739-6660 - office  
[jhall@webbwheel.com](mailto:jhall@webbwheel.com)

cc: Ken Dickson  
John Lemker

Form Approved: O.M.B. No. 2127-9904

## Safety Defect and Noncompliance Report Guide for Equipment

PART 573 Defect and Noncompliance Report<sup>(1)</sup>

On January 7, 2004, Webb Wheel Products, Inc. [MFR] decided that ~~(a defect which relates to motor vehicle safety) (a noncompliance with Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard No. \_\_\_\_\_) exists in items of motor vehicle equipment listed below~~, some lots of its "Platinum Series" brake drums were experiencing premature cracking. No cause has been identified and our investigation continues. However, since we believe the cracking suggests there is a potential for brake drum failure, Webb Wheel has decided to conduct a remedial program although no final determination of a defect which would cause the failure has been identified and Webb Wheel is furnishing notification to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration in accordance with 49 CFR Part 573 Defect and Noncompliance Reports.

Date this report was prepared:

Furnish the manufacturer's identification code for this recall (if applicable):

1. Identify the full corporate name of the fabricating manufacturer/brand name/trademark owner of the recalled item of equipment. If the recalled item of equipment is imported, provide the name and mailing address of the designated agent as prescribed by 49 U.S.C. §30164.

Webb Wheel Products, Inc.  
2310 Industrial Drive S.W  
Cullman, AL 35055

Identify the corporate official, by name and title, whom the agency should contact with respect to this recall.

John C. Hall  
V.P. Engineering

Telephone Number: (256) 775-7507 Fax No.: (256) 739-6660

Name and Title of Person who prepared this report.

John C. Hall

## V.P. Engineering

Signed:

**I. Identify the Recalled Items of Equipment**

**2. Identify the Items of Equipment Involved in this Recall, for each make and model or applicable item of equipment product line (provide illustrations or photographs as necessary to describe the item of equipment), provide:**

**Generic name of the item:** "Platinum Series" brake drum

**Make:** All **Model:** Class 6-8 truck/tractors and truck trailers.

**Part Number:** 60528B **Size:** 15" X 4"

**Function:** Converts kinetic energy to heat energy. Provides friction surface for brake surface linings. Transmits braking torque to hub or spoke wheel.

**Other information which characterizes/distinguishes the items of equipment to be recalled:**

**Make:** All **Model:** Class 6-8 truck/tractors and truck trailers.

**Part Number:** 60545B **Size:** 15" X 4"

**Function:** Converts kinetic energy to heat energy. Provides friction surface for brake surface linings. Transmits braking torque to hub or spoke wheel.

**Other information which characterizes/distinguishes the items of equipment to be recalled:**

**Make:** All **Model:** Class 6-8 truck/tractors and truck trailers.

**Part Number:** 60672B **Size:** 16.5" X 7"

**Function:** Converts kinetic energy to heat energy. Provides friction surface for brake surface linings. Transmits braking torque to hub or spoke wheel.

**Other information which characterizes/distinguishes the items of equipment to be recalled:**

**Make:** All **Model:** Class 6-8 truck/tractors and truck trailers.

**Part Number:** 60864B **Size:** 16.5" X 7"

**Function:** Converts kinetic energy to heat energy. Provides friction surface for brake surface linings. Transmits braking torque to hub or spoke wheel.

**Other information which characterizes/distinguishes the items of equipment to be recalled:**

**Make:** All **Model:** Class 6-8 truck/tractors and truck trailers.

**Part Number:** 60875B **Size:** 16.5" X 7"

**Function:** Converts kinetic energy to heat energy. Provides friction surface for brake surface linings. Transmits braking torque to hub or spoke wheel.

**Other information which characterizes/distinguishes the items of equipment to be recalled:**

**Make:** All **Model:** Class 6-8 truck/tractors and truck trailers.

**Part Number:** 60893B **Size:** 16.5" X 7"

**Function:** Converts kinetic energy to heat energy. Provides friction surface for brake surface linings. Transmits braking torque to hub or spoke wheel.

**Other information which characterizes/distinguishes the items of equipment to be recalled:**

**Make:** All **Model:** Class 6-8 truck/tractors and truck trailers.

**Part Number:** 60895B **Size:** 16.5" X 7"

**Function:** Converts kinetic energy to heat energy. Provides friction surface for brake surface linings. Transmits braking torque to hub or spoke wheel.

**Other information which characterizes/distinguishes the items of equipment to be recalled:**

Identify the approximate percentage of the production of all the recalled models manufactured by your company between the inclusive dates of manufacture provided above, that the recalled model population represents. For example, if the recall involved Widgets equipped with certain items of equipment from January 1, 1996, through April 1, 1997, then what was the percentage of the recalled Widgets of all Widgets manufactured during that time period.

The starting and ending dates of manufacture for this recall were determined by the total population of platinum drum castings produced from January 17, 2001 through September 30, 2002.

## II. Identifying the Recall Population

3. Furnish the total number of items of equipment recalled potentially containing the defect or noncompliance.

**Number of Items:**

The total number of drums potentially covered by this recall is 63,655.

Model Year Potentially Involved

**Total Number Potentially Affected by the Recall:** \_\_\_\_\_

**4. Furnish the approximate percentage of the total number of items of equipment estimated to actually contain the defect or noncompliance:**

The approximate percentage of the total number of drums, based on warranty claims, estimated to be subject to this recall is 10% or 6,366 drums.

**Identify and describe how the recall population was determined--in particular how the recalled models were selected and the basis for the beginning and final dates of manufacture of the recalled items of equipment:**

### III. Describe the Defect or Noncompliance

**5. Describe the defect or noncompliance. The description should address the nature and physical location of the defect or noncompliance. Illustrations should be provided as appropriate.**

The reason for the higher number of warranty claims is still under investigation. One potential cause is the non-homogenous metallurgical structure of the platinum drum which sets up detrimental residual stresses, or poorer thermal conductivity, or both, in the drum.

**Describe the cause(s) of the defect or noncompliance condition.**

We don't know what the cause is at this time.

**Describe the consequence(s) of the defect or noncompliance condition.**

The condition can lead to:

- 1) Premature cracking of the braking surface resulting in the following:
  - a. Reduction or complete loss of braking on that wheel end.
  - b. Loss of brake drum pieces resulting in further damage.
- 2) Excessive runout of the braking surface causing cam rollover resulting in the loss of braking on that wheel end.

**Identify any warning which can (a) precede or (b) occur.**

**If the defect or noncompliance is in a component or assembly purchased from a supplier, identify the supplier by corporate name and address.**

ThyssenKrupp Waupac, Inc.

Tower Road PO Box 249  
Waupaca, WI 54981

Identify the name and title of the chief executive officer or knowledgeable representative of the supplier:

Gary Thoe  
President, CEO

#### IV. Provide the Chronology in Determining the Defect/Noncompliance

*If the recall is for a defect, complete item 6, otherwise item 7.*

6. With respect to a defect, furnish a chronological summary (including dates) of all the principle events that were the basis for the determination of the defect. The summary should include, but not be limited to, the number of reports, accidents, injuries, fatalities, and warranty claims.

##### 1) Reports:

###### a. Chronological Events:

February 6, 2003 - Comparison of Gray Iron versus Platinum Drum Warranty

Gray Iron .00074 x 100% = .0740%	} Approximately the same
Platinum .000973 x 100% = .0973%	

April 9, 2003

Trailer Fire - WC #18503 authorized 4/24/03.

Drum worn beyond maximum discard diameter.

Picture 4/1/03

Investigated Pullens Trailer fire - sent in one of our salesmen whose judgment was that it wasn't the drum that caused the fire.

Material checked good:

90-95% CGI, 85-95% Pearlite

May 13, 2003

Field investigations started in earnest 4/28/03.

May 22, 2003

Comparison of Gray Iron versus Platinum Drum Warranty

Gray Iron .00045 x 100% = .0450%	} Platinum warranty 15+ times Gray Iron Warranty
Platinum .00703 x 100% = .703%	

June 10, 2003

Great Dane Report #1

### VI. Identify the Recall Schedule

Furnish a schedule or agenda (with specific dates) for notification to other manufacturers, dealers/retailers, and purchasers. Please, identify any foreseeable problems with implementing the recall.

All mailings will be completed within 10 working days of approval of the notification letters.

### VII. Furnish Recall Communications

9. Furnish a final copy of all notices, bulletins, and other communications that relate directly to the defect or noncompliance and which are sent to more than one manufacturer, distributor, or purchaser. This includes all communications (including both original and follow-up) concerning this recall from the time your company determines the defect or noncompliance condition on, not just the initial notification. *A DRAFT copy of the notification documents should be submitted to this office by Fax (202-366-7882) for review prior to mailing.*

Attached are draft copies of all notices, bulletins, and other communications that relate directly to this recall.

Note: These documents are to be submitted separately from those provided in accordance with Part 573.8 requirements.

A copy of all notices, bulletins, and other communications will be sent to the vehicle manufacturers and parts distribution centers that purchased these "Platinum Series" brake drums.

1. Each manufacturer must furnish a report, to the Associate Administrator for Safety Assurance, for each defect or noncompliance condition which relates to motor vehicle safety.

This guide was developed from 49 CFR Part 573, "Defect and Noncompliance Reports" and also outlines information currently requested. Any questions, please consult the complete Part 573 or contact Mr. Jon White at (202) 366-5226 or by FAX at (202) 366-7882.

*The Privacy Act of 1974 - Public Law 93-579, As Amended: This information is requested pursuant to the authority vested in the National Highway Traffic Safety Act and subsequent amendments. You are under no obligation to respond to this questionnaire. Your response may be used to assist the NHTSA in determining whether a manufacturer should take appropriate action to correct a safety defect. If the NHTSA proceeds with administrative enforcement or litigation against a manufacturer, your response, or statistical summary thereof, may be used in support of the agency's action.*



***Great Dane Trailers***

February 6, 2004

**VIA CERTIFIED MAIL**

Ms. Kathleen DeMeter  
Office of Defect Investigation  
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration  
400 Seventh Street S.W. NBA-11  
Washington, DC 20590

Re: BQ4-002

Dear Ms. DeMeter:

The following is being submitted in response to a request from Judy Taylor for additional information on 02-05-2004.

Total vehicles affected are 5048 Model Year 2002, 2003 and 2004 trailers manufactured from 08-30-2001 through 05-12-2003. The vehicles consist of Great Dane Semi-trailer, Classic Reefers, Dry Vans, Super Seal Reefers, P-Model Vans and Flatbed trailers.

If you have any questions, please contact the undersigned.

Very truly yours,

Harry A. Mitchell

Customer Service/Warranty Manager