



MORBARK, INC.

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March 9, 2004

Mr. Jon White
Associate Administrator for Safety Assurance (NSA-01)
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
400 Seventh Street, SW
Washington, DC 20590

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NHTSA

Dear Mr. White:

04V-126 ①②

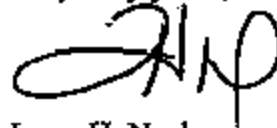
Morbark, Inc. has determined that a defect which relates to motor vehicle safety exists in the item of motor vehicle equipment described below and is furnishing notification to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration in accordance with 49 CFR part 573, "Defect and Noncompliance Reports." This notification relates to NHTSA campaign number: 04V-033.

1. The name of the manufacturer is Morbark, Inc., and the products are sold under the "Model 7600 Woodhog" brand name.
2. The item of equipment containing a defect is the Harley Murray, Inc., 16-tire trailer suspension. The inclusive dates of shipping of the vehicles containing the affected units are July, 2002 to June, 2003.
3. The total number of vehicles manufactured and sold by Morbark, Inc. in the U.S. during the relevant time period was 3 units. Morbark, Inc. does know that only 3 units contain this defect. Harley Murray, Inc., states that the entire population shipped to us during the relevant time period for installation on new vehicles was 3 units. The affected population includes the entire production of the Murray 16-tire suspensions used or installed on powered or towed vehicles.
4. Harley Murray, Inc. has determined that a defect exists in certain 16-tire trailer suspensions equipped with cast (rather than fabricated) axle hangers and manufactured from March of 2002 to December of 2003. If a vehicle equipped with these suspensions has struck obstacles or road hazards with sufficient force to start a crack on the axle hanger, it is possible that continued operation of the vehicle could fatigue the beam completely, causing breakage of the axle hanger/suspension which could result in a crash and therefore involves an unreasonable risk to motor vehicle safety.
5. There have been no reports of any accidents or injuries involving this product. At this time, Harley Murray, Inc. is aware of 7 incidents involving suspension failure potentially connected to the defect.

6. The program for providing a remedy without charge for the defect is as follows: Harley Murray, Inc. will replace or repair the suspensions on customer vehicles at their facility in Stockton, California, or (if a satisfactory solution is found) provide a remedy kit and detailed instructions for use by repair facilities to repair the vehicles with affected 16-tire suspensions. If such repair solution is found, Harley Murray, Inc. will also provide a labor allowance for the repair.
7. Harley Murray, Inc. will reimburse any owner of a subject suspension who incurred the cost of replacing a subject suspension after March, 2002 specifically to address the defect identified above, unless the owner could have made a claim under warranty. Murray will require adequate documentation that the owner actually owned the product and incurred the expense in replacing it to address the defect, consistent with the requirements of §573.13(d)(4) of NHTSA's regulations.
8. Harley Murray will conduct the owner notification which will commence as soon as Harley Murray obtains owner contact information for the affected suspensions. A draft copy of the proposed recall notice to suspension purchasers, fleets and end users, has been, or will be, provided by Harley Murray to NHTSA.

If you have any questions, please contact the undersigned.

Very truly yours,



Larry H. Noch
Executive Vice President

LHN/sn