



Volvo Trucks North America, Inc.

June 28, 2004

VIA EXPRESS MAIL

Associate Administrator for Enforcement
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
400 Seventh Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20590

04V-315
(3 pages)

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The following information is submitted in accordance with the requirements of 49 CFR Part 573.6 as it applies to a defect relating to motor vehicle safety.

573.6(c)(1)
Volvo Trucks North America, Inc.
P.O. Box 26115
Greensboro, NC 27402-6115

573.6(c)(2)
Volvo VN, model, heavy-duty class 8 vehicles assembled by Volvo Trucks North America, Inc. between October 2002, and March 2004.

The vehicles affected by this notification were selected by using the part numbers of the dash-mounted switch used to actuate the fifth wheel air release. This fifth wheel air release system is a "customer selectable option" which means that it is a non-standard feature that we sale; therefore, we limited the recall to the vehicles containing the fifth wheel air release option.

573.6(c)(3)
One thousand, three hundred and seventy-four (1,374) vehicles potentially contain the suspect defect.

573.6(c)(4)
Percentage of vehicles expected to contain the suspect defect is unknown; however, the potential exists that a single fault may result in the fifth wheel latch be inadvertently released.

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573.6(c)(5)

A malfunction in the solenoid valve may allow air to be released to fifth wheel latch when the park brake is engaged. This condition could cause the fifth wheel latch to release inadvertently when the park brake is engaged, creating the potential for loss of the trailer.

573.6 (c)(6)

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|---------|---|
| 3-12-04 | Service Department received a report alleging that the fifth wheel air release valve supplied air inadvertently to the fifth wheel latch when the park brake was set. The operator of the vehicle in question was parked with the tractor and trailer park brakes applied. When the operator released the park brakes, he observed that the trailer did not move when the accelerator pedal was depressed; but the tractor did move. The vehicle was towed back to the vehicle owner's shop where the mechanic found that the fifth wheel air release valve had a stuck piston, resulting in air pressure being applied to the release. |
| 3-15-04 | Engineering reviewed the issue and learned that the subject air solenoid valve could result in air being inadvertently supplied under certain conditions. Engineering recommended that a redundant valve be placed in series with the circuit. |
| 3-29-04 | Manufacturing began installing an additional solenoid valve in series with the existing solenoid valve. |
| 6-28-04 | As of this date no reports of accidents or injuries have been reported attributable to issue |
| 6-22-04 | Volvo Trucks North America, Inc. decided that the condition described in this notification constitutes a defect and that such defect is safety related. |

573.6(c)(7)

Not applicable

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573.6(c)(8)

Volvo Trucks North America, Inc. will initiate a voluntary owner notification, and recall all 1,374 vehicles built with the suspect fifth wheel air release system.

The recall repair will consist of adding an additional solenoid valve in series with the existing pneumatic circuit for the fifth wheel air release.

The number, which has been assigned to this recall by Volvo Trucks North America, Inc., is **RVXX0403**.

The recall is tentatively scheduled to commence within 30 working days from the date of this notification.

Very Truly Yours

 6/28/04

Timothy L. LaFon
Regulatory Compliance Manager