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August 6, 2004

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

The following information is submitted in accordance with the requirements of 49 CFR Part 573.5 as it applies to a defect relating to motor vehicle safety.

573.5(c)(1)
Autocar, LLC
P.O. Box 190
Hagerstown, IN 47346-0190

573.5(c)(2)
Autocar WX, WXLL and WXR model, heavy-duty class 8 vehicles shipped between 12/9/03 & 7/20/04

Identified vehicles fitted with Accuride 22.5 x 9.00 - Hub Pilot H.D. Steel Wheel Rims with Accuride P/N RA 29300-1 require the replacement of the rear axle wheel studs.

573.5(c)(3)
There are Thirty-three (33) vehicles with serial numbers in the range 200173 to 200859.

573.5(c)(4)
Percentage of vehicles expected to contain the suspect defect is 100%.

573.5(c)(5)
Through a random in plant inspection it was discovered that there was an incorrect wheel stud length called up for H.D. faceplate steel rims. To date all steel rims were assigned the same stud length and all aluminum wheels were assigned a longer stud to account for the H.D. faceplates, however, a new option appeared for a H.D. faceplate steel wheel and it was given the standard length stud for a steel wheel. The standard steel stud in this application does not protrude through the end of the wheel nut and therefore does not provide a minimum of three exposed threads protruding past the lug nut as is the Autocar Engineering standard.

There is a possibility that the shorter wheel studs may not be able to retain the applied wheel nut torque and may loosen off allowing the loss of a wheel(s). Anytime a vehicle loses a wheel while travelling down a roadway there is the possibility of an accident either for the truck losing the wheel or another vehicle or pedestrian coming in contact with the runaway wheel.

573.5 (c)(6)

7/20/04 An In plant inspection uncovered an incorrect wheel stud length call-up.

7/27/04 A "where used" search indicated that a number of trucks had been fitted with this wheel/stud combination and were in-service in the field.

8/3/04 Autocar, LLC has determined that the condition described in this notification constitutes a product defect and that this defect is safety related.

573.5(c)(7)
Not applicable

573.5(c)(8)
Autocar, LLC will initiate a voluntary owner notification, and recall of all Autocar vehicles incorporating the above mentioned H.D. faceplate steel wheels and short wheel studs.

Autocar, LLC reviewed warranty claims on this issue and found that no repairs were reported and therefore no pre-notification repairs would have been made at the expense of the owner.

The recall will consist of the replacement of the rear axle wheel studs.

The number, which has been assigned to this recall by Autocar, LLC, is **A - 0401**.

Bulletins and owner's notices will be mailed as per the regulations as soon as they are completed and approved by NHTSA.

Very Truly Yours
AUTOCAR, LLC



Stan R. Gornick, P. Eng.
Manager, Compliance