



# WILSON TRAILER COMPANY

4400 So. Lewis Boulevard  
P.O. Box 2616  
Sioux City, Iowa 51106-0616  
Phone (712) 252-6500 Fax (712) 252-6510

RECEIVED  
NHTSA-215

2004 SEP 15 P 1:32

OFFICE OF  
DEFECTS INVESTIGATION

September 10, 2004

Associate Administrator for Enforcement  
National Highway Transportation and Safety Administration  
400 B 7<sup>th</sup> Street  
Washington, DC 20590

04V-440  
(6 Pages)

RE: Wilson Trailer Company Number 04100  
Notice of Possible Defect

Dear Administrator:

## REPORT TO NHTSA

1. **Manufacturer's Name:** Wilson Trailer Company
2. **Vehicle Identification:** 2004 Wilson grain trailers manufactured from May 25, 2004, to July 30, 2004. Vehicles have been further identified by VIN and customer list.
3. **Total Number of Vehicles Subject to Recall:** 448.
4. **Percentage of Trailers Estimated to be Defective:** Less than 2%.
5. **Description of Defect:** The defect concerns the wheel assembly in that the hub spindle-nut on each axle may have been installed without a "keeper." The purpose of the keeper is to lock the spindle-nut in place and, thereby, secure the wheel to the axle. Failure to install the keeper can cause the wheel on the affected axle to come off and cause personal injury to persons outside the vehicle and property damage. See enclosed photos.
6. **History of Events:** Two trailers manufactured within said time frame have experienced wheel loss due to lack of a keeper on one of the tandem axles. A determination of cause reveals that an assembly worker failed to install a keeper on one of the four hubs found on the two trailers. Similar problems may exist as to other trailers manufactured during that time frame.
7. **Description of Remedy:** To remedy the defect, one must first determine if each wheel assembly lacks a keeper. To do so, one must inspect the clear, plastic spindle-nut cover and visually locate the orange colored keeper. If the keeper is present, there is no defect. If the keeper is not present, it must be installed before moving the trailer. Instructions as to how to remedy the problem will be provided by the manufacturer upon the customer calling a toll-free



telephone number. The process involves checking and adjusting spindle-nut torque and installing a keeper.

Customers will be notified of the safety recall by first class mail on or before September 15, 2004

8. Copies of Notices, etc: See enclosed Safety Recall Notice with enclosures and dealer letter.

9. Manufacturer's campaign number: 04100

Respectfully Submitted,

Bob McLarty  
Technical Service & Claims Mgr.

Enclosures: Photos of install Pro-Torq keeper  
Safety recall notice with enclosures to owner  
Dealer letter

**(PROPOSED CUSTOMER NOTIFICATION LETTER CONCERNING SAFETY RECALL)**

(Date)

(Customer)

(Address)

(City and State)

**RE: Wilson Trailer Campaign Number 04100  
Notice of Possible Defect  
Trailer VIN\_\_\_\_\_**

Dear Sir:

**SAFETY RECALL NOTICE**

This notice is sent to you in accordance with the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act. Wilson Trailer Company has decided that a defect which relates to motor vehicle safety exists in certain 2004 Wilson grain trailers manufactured from May 25, 2004, to July 30, 2004. Wilson Trailer Company has determined that the defect may not exist in every trailer.

The defect concerns the wheel assembly in that the hub spindle nut on each axle may have been installed without a Akeeper.® The purpose of the keeper is to lock the spindle nut in place and, thereby, secure the wheel to the axle. Failure to install the keeper can cause the wheel on the affected axle to come off and cause personal injury to persons outside the vehicle and property damage.

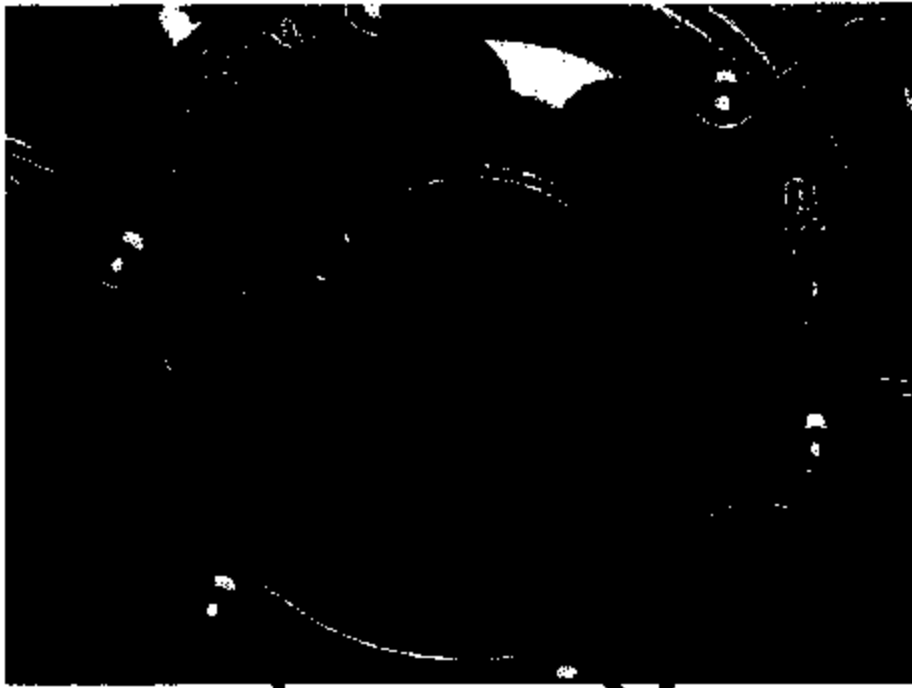
To remedy this defect, one must first determine if each wheel assembly lacks a keeper. To do so, one must inspect the clear, plastic spindle-nut cover and visually locate the orange colored keeper. If the keeper is present, there is no defect. If the keeper is not present, it must be installed before moving the trailer.

If one or more of your trailer axles do not have a keeper, call Bob McLarty at Wilson Trailer Company, 1-800-798-2002, for instructions as to how to remedy the problem. Your nearest Wilson dealer can answer general questions about this recall. Enclosed are photos of the orange keeper as it appears through the clear, plastic spindle-nut cover. Any repair part or service work will be provided at no cost to you.

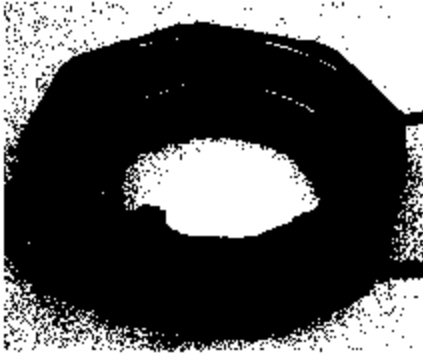
After you have inspected your trailer axle hubs, mark the enclosed postcard as indicated and return it to Wilson Trailer Company. If you have any questions concerning this letter, please contact your dealer or the undersigned.

Sincerely,

**Bob McLarty  
Technical Service & Claims Mgr.**



**HUB CAP WINDOW**



**ORANGE NUT KEEPER**

**PRO TORQ NUT**

**ORANGE NUT KEEPER**



**(PROPOSED DEALER LETTER CONCERNING SAFETY RECALL NOTICE)**

**(Date)**

**(Dealer)**

**(Address)**

**(City and State)**

**RE: Wilson Trailer Campaign Number 04100  
Notice of Possible Defect**

**Dear Sir:**

Wilson Trailer Company has decided that a possible defect exists in certain 2004 Wilson grain trailers manufactured from May 25, 2004, to July 30, 2004. The defect concerns the wheel assembly in that the Pro-Torq spindle nut on each axle may have been installed without a Akeeper.® The purpose of the keeper is to lock the spindle nut in place and, thereby, secure the wheel to the axle. Failure to install a keeper can cause the wheel on the affected axle to come off and cause personal injury to other persons outside the vehicle and property damage.

Your company has sold some of these trailers. Enclosed is a listing of your customers and serial numbers for the concerned trailers. Wilson Trailer Company has notified these customers per the enclosed Safety Recall Notice. They have been given the option to contact you if they have questions.

It is important that the trailer not be moved if the keeper is not present on an axle. If contacted, please answer all general questions and refer them to me. For your information, enclosed is a set of instructions on installing the keeper. Any repair part or service work will be provided at no cost to the customer or you.

In the event you have any of the concerned trailers on your lot, you will need to inspect each spindle-nut cover and determine whether a keeper is present. If not, take action necessary to remedy the problem. I will need to be notified immediately of any such trailers on your lot.

Sincerely,

**Bob McLarty  
Technical Service & Claims Mgr.**

**Enclosures: Customer Notice  
Customer List with Serial Numbers  
Instructions**

**VERIFICATION CARD**

- Once you have confirmed that the orange nut keeper is installed on the wheel hubs, please (X) this box and return to Wilson Trailer Company "No Postage Necessary".

Date Inspected \_\_\_\_\_

Serial No. \_\_\_\_\_

# VERIFICATION CARD

Once you have confirmed that the orange nut keeper is installed on the wheel hubs, please (X) this box and return to Wilson Trailer Company "No Postage Necessary".

Date Inspected \_\_\_\_\_

Serial No. \_\_\_\_\_



NO POSTAGE  
NECESSARY  
IF MAILED  
IN THE  
UNITED STATES

**BUSINESS REPLY MAIL**

FIRST-CLASS MAIL PERMIT NO. 1326 SIOUX CITY, IOWA

POSTAGE WILL BE PAID BY ADDRESSEE

## **Wilson Trailer Company**

4400 South Lewis Boulevard

P.O. Box 2818

Sioux City, Iowa 51106-9905

Attention: Linda Kollbaum

