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2004 DEC 30 PM 3:11
FBI - INDIANAPOLIS

December 9, 2004

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

04-V-594
(11 pages)

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)
Autocar, LLC
P.O. Box 190
Hagerstown, IN 47346-0190

573.6(c)(2)
Autocar WX, WXLL and WXR model, heavy-duty class 8 vehicles shipped between September 2003 and November 2004.

On certain Autocar WX, WXR and WXLL model vehicles the air suspension height control valve may not be plumbed through an air pressure protection valve. In the event of a suspension air bag failure or rupture of the air line, there would be a loss of air pressure in the 'B' system air reservoir that supplies air pressure for the front steer axle brakes.

573.6(c)(3)
There are Twenty (20) vehicles with serial numbers in the range 200044 to 201517.

573.6(c)(4)
Percentage of vehicles expected to contain the suspect defect is unknown.

573.6(c)(5)
During a vehicle inspection, the inspector noted that a required air pressure protection valve was missing from the supply line to the air suspension height control valve which is plumbed to the 'B' system air tank on a truck equipped with an air ride suspension. The air pressure protection valve closes off the supply of

air in the event of an air bag failure or air line rupture thus protecting the air tank from losing all of its air pressure. The 'B' system air tank supplies air to the front axle brakes so any significant loss of a pressure from this tank would increase vehicle stopping distance.

573.6 (c)(6) CHRONOLOGY:

11/9/04	Line inspector noticed a missing air protection valve.
11/15/04	A search of the BOM revealed that the missing valve was called up in the build paperwork for the truck.
11/23/04	Compliance Engineering determined that there was no way to verify if the air protection valve was missing from other vehicles other than to inspect each and every vehicle.
11/29/04	A listing of all trucks requiring the above mentioned valve was generated.
11/30/04	Compliance Engineering began drafting up the required documents to present a safety recall to management for approval.
12/9/04	Autocar, LLC has determined that the condition described in this notification constitutes a product defect and that this defect is safety related.

573.6(c)(7)
Not applicable

573.6(c)(8)
Autocar, LLC will initiate a voluntary owner notification, and recall of all Autocar vehicles calling up the above mentioned missing air pressure protection valve.

Autocar, LLC reviewed warranty claims on this issue and found that no repairs were made on trucks outside of warranty and therefore no pre-notification repairs would have been made at the expense of the owner (Section 573.13(d)(1)).

The recall will consist of installing the missing air pressure protection valve and fittings.

NHTSA
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The number, which has been assigned to this recall by Autocar, LLC, is **A - 0404**.

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

Very Truly Yours

AUTOCAR, LLC

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stan R. Gornick", written over a horizontal line.

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

SAFETY RECALL BULLETIN

DECEMBER 2004

ATTENTION: **SERVICE MANAGERS / PARTS MANAGERS**

SUBJECT: **AIR SUSPENSION HEIGHT CONTROL VALVE
SUPPLY LINE WAS NOT PLUMBED THROUGH AN
AIR PRESSURE PROTECTION VALVE**

**VEHICLES
AFFECTED:** **CERTAIN AUTOCAR WX, WXR AND WXLL MODEL
VEHICLES DELIVERED BETWEEN SEPTEMBER
2003 AND NOVEMBER 2004 IN THE VIN NUMBER
RANGE OF 200044 TO 201517.**

SAFETY RECALL INFORMATION:

Autocar, LLC has determined that a defect relating to motor vehicle safety may exist in certain Autocar WX, WXR and WXLL model vehicles assembled at Autocar's Hagerstown facility. The air suspension control valve may not be plumbed through an air pressure protection valve. In the event of a suspension air bag failure or rupture of the air line, there would be a loss of air pressure in the 'B' system air reservoir that supplies air pressure for the front steer axle brakes.

NUMBER of VEHICLES AFFECTED:

There are Thirty (30) vehicles assembled at the Autocar Hagerstown facility with serial numbers in the range 200044 to 201517.

NOTE: To verify or determine if a particular vehicle is affected by this recall (or any other recall), you should consult the Service/Warranty screen. By entering the Vehicle Identification Number into the VIN Profile, the screen will display any outstanding recall(s).

If a "Dealer Listing" is enclosed, it identifies the vehicles that were sold or shipped to your dealership. Be sure to check the VIN Profile screen before performing the recall to verify that the recall is still open. If the recall has been completed by another dealer the word "Completed" will be shown behind the recall number.

INSPECTION INSTRUCTIONS:

Follow the air supply line from the air ride suspension height control valve back to the 'B' system air tank. If the air line is NOT routed through an air pressure protection valve as shown in Photo 1 on Page 4, proceed with the recall repair. If the air line is plumbed into an air pressure protection valve (shown in Photo 2 on Page 4) nothing needs to be done, the recall is complete.

REPAIR:

The repair consists of installing an air pressure protection valve in the 'B' system air tank supplying air to the air ride suspension height control valve. The repair Instructions can be found starting on page 3 of this Bulletin.

TIME ALLOWANCE:

Inspection: 0.4 hours per vehicle
Repair: 0.9 hours per vehicle

RECALL PARTS:

1 only 72807-0005
1 only 3082803
1 only 3082865

REMOVED PARTS:

Fittings removed per this recall should be scrapped locally in such a manner as to prevent further usage.

CLAIMS FOR CREDIT:

Expenses associated with the performance of this recall will be reimbursed based on the guidelines identified in this Bulletin, and by submitting a claim following published instructions in the "Claim Preparation" section of the "Service Operations Manual".

CLAIM CODING INFORMATION:

Authorization Number: - A-0404
Inspection: - 56312-0-03 0.4 hours per vehicle
Repair: - 56312-0-04 0.9 hours per vehicle

OWNER RECALL RESPONSE CARD:

The "Owner Recall Response Card" is to provide the vehicle owner with a convenient way to notify Autocar, LLC of changes affecting the ownership of the subject vehicle. The owner card is not intended for dealer usage other than to assist you in the preparation of the repair orders necessary to perform the applicable recall on the subject vehicle. Please do not use the card as a way to inform Autocar, LLC that the vehicle has been inspected or modified. Your claim on line is sufficient.

DEALER RECALL RESPONSIBILITY:

Dealers are to perform the remedy on all vehicles subject to the recall at no charge to the owner regardless of mileage, age of vehicle, or ownership from this time forward. Whenever a vehicle subject to this recall is taken into your dealership for service, we strongly recommend you make every effort to perform the recall remedy before the vehicle is released to the owner.

NOTE: It is illegal to sell a vehicle from your inventory with any outstanding recalls.

AUTOCAR, LLC

REPAIR PROCEDURE FOR INSTALLING AIR PRESSURE PROTECTION VALVE

To prevent eye injury, always wear eye protection when performing vehicle maintenance, service or inspection.



DANGER

Before working on a vehicle, set the parking brake, place the transmission in neutral and block the wheels. Failure to do so can result in unexpected vehicle movement and can cause serious personal injury or death.

Drain the air System completely before starting this service procedure. You may receive injuries from whipping air lines or blowing debris if the air system is not drained.

1. Park the vehicle on a level surface. Turn off the engine, apply the parking brakes, and chock the rear tires to keep the vehicle from moving.
2. Drain the air system completely before starting this service procedure.
3. Remove the 3/8 inch air supply line from the suspension height control valve where it is attached to the tube connector in the 1/2 inch port in the center of the "B" system air tank. See Photo 1 on Page 4.
4. Remove the fitting from the tank and discard.
5. Install the new fittings and pressure protection valve as shown in Photo 2 on Page 4. Due to air tank orientation or body clearances you may have to use a 45° elbow or a 90° elbow off of the tank prior to installing the pressure protection valve to avoid interference with body parts.

Note: The pressure protection valve must be installed in the correct orientation.
See Photo 3 on Page 4 for proper air flow direction.

6. Attach the 3/8 inch air supply line from the suspension height control valve to the 3/8 inch tubing connector on the pressure protection valve.
7. Start the truck, build air pressure and check for air leaks. The recall is complete.

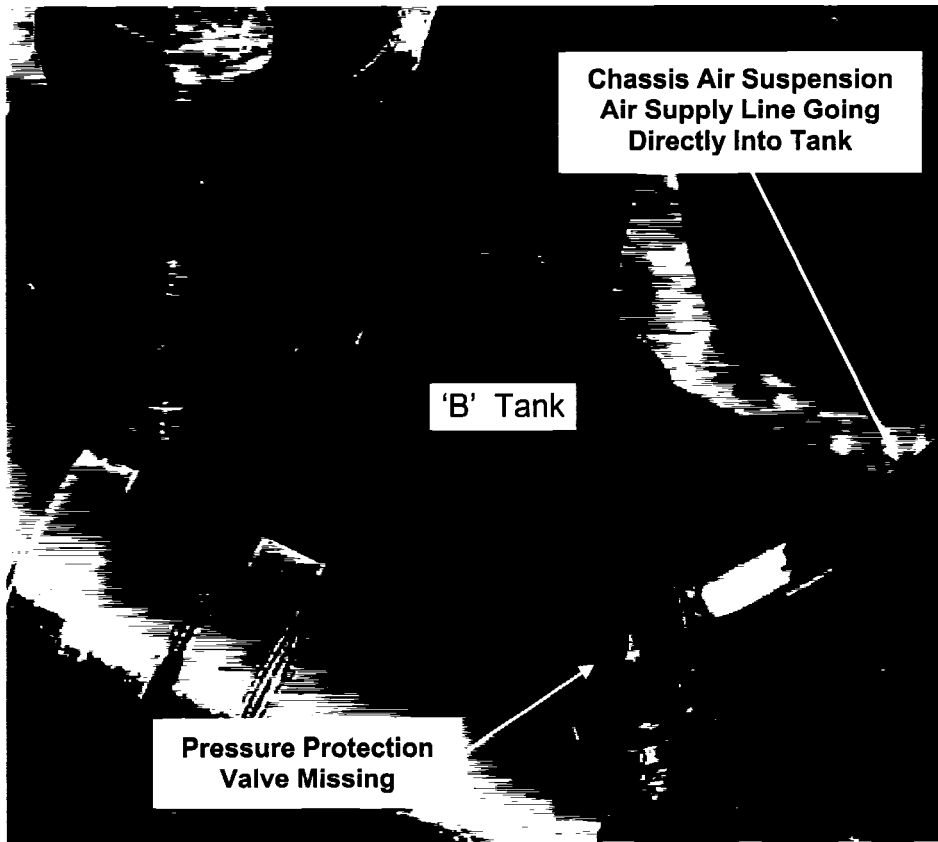


PHOTO 1

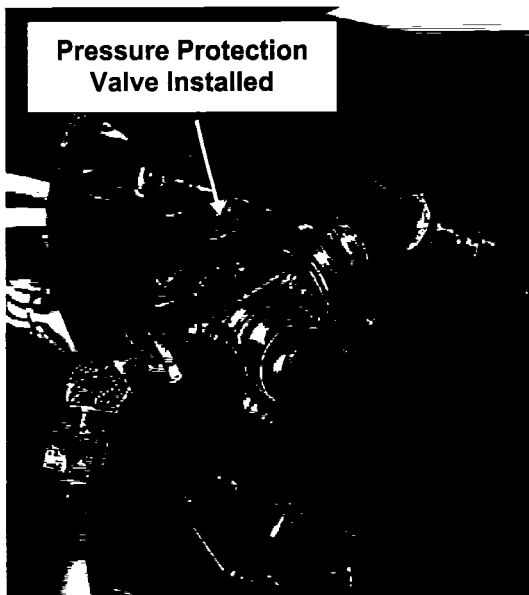


PHOTO 2

**Pressure Protection Valve
Viewed from Bottom**



Arrows Indicate Air Flow Direction

PHOTO 3

SAFETY RECALL NOTICE



SAFETY RECALL A-0404 DECEMBER 2004

Dear Autocar Truck Owner:

This notice is sent to you in accordance with the requirements of the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act for US residents. Autocar, LLC has identified you as an owner of one of the vehicles affected by this Recall.

Autocar, LLC has decided that a defect that relates to motor vehicle safety exists in certain WX, WXLL and WXR model, heavy-duty Class 8 vehicles shipped between September 2003 & November 2004 with VIN number range 200044 TO 201517.

SAFETY DEFECT:

On certain Autocar WX, WXR and WXLL model vehicles the air suspension height control valve may not be plumbed through an air pressure protection valve. In the event of a suspension air bag failure or rupture of the air line, there would be a loss of air pressure in the 'B' system air reservoir that supplies air pressure for the front steer axle brakes.

POTENTIAL RISK:

This condition would increase stopping distance of the vehicle and under certain conditions could result in a crash.

PRECAUTIONS YOU CAN TAKE:

You may perform the following inspection. Follow the air supply line from the air ride suspension height control valve back to the 'B' system air tank. If the air line is NOT routed through an air pressure protection valve as shown in Photo 1 on Page 3, contact your Autocar Dealer to set-up an appointment to have the recall completed. If the air line is plumbed into an air pressure protection valve (shown in Photo 2 on Page 3) nothing needs to be done, the recall is not required. If your vehicle does not require the recall please check the "Inspected Vehicle" box on the attached postage paid **OWNER SAFETY RECALL RESPONSE CARD**, sign and date the card and place in the mail.

REPAIR:

At no charge to you regardless of your vehicle's age or mileage, an Autocar truck dealer will repair your vehicle.

TIME REQUIRED FOR THE REPAIR:

The labor time required to repair your vehicle is about 0.9 hours.

WHAT YOU SHOULD DO:

If you have inspected the truck yourself and the air pressure protection valve is not present as shown in the Photo 1 or if you prefer the dealership to perform the inspection on your behalf, Autocar, LLC urges you to immediately contact a Autocar Truck dealer for a service appointment to have your vehicle inspected and/or repaired. To locate the closest Autocar truck dealer you can go on line to www.Autocartruck.com and select Sales, Service & Parts or call 1-877-973-3486 Ext. 2572

SAFETY RECALL NOTICE



PRE-NOTIFICATION REPAIR:

If you have previously paid for repairs to have a pressure protection valve installed you may be entitled to recovery of those expenses. Submit a copy of all documentation supporting your claim to Autocar Trucks at the address identified in this notice in the section "Assistance".

NOTICE REGARDING LEASED VEHICLES:

If you are a Lessor of vehicles subject to this Notice, you have an obligation under Federal Law to provide a copy of this Notice to all Lessees within 10 days of your receipt of this Notice. Further, you must "maintain a record, which identifies the Lessee(s) to whom you send a copy of this letter, the date you send this letter, and the Vehicle Identification Number(s) of the vehicle(s) that you have leased to that Lessee. For, purposes of this Notice, the term Lessor means: a person or entity that is the owner, as reflected on the vehicle's title, of any five or more leased vehicles (as defined in 49 CFR Section 577.4), as of the date of notification by the manufacturer of the existence of a safety-related defect or non-compliance.

OWNER RECALL RESPONSE CARD:

The enclosed "Owner Recall Response Card" identifies your vehicle. Presentation of this card to any authorized full-service Autocar truck dealer will assist in the processing of your vehicle in the shortest time possible. If you do not own, have sold or have traded the vehicle identified, please let us know by completing, and signing the postage-paid Card and returning it to Autocar, LLC so we can update our records.

ASSISTANCE:

If your vehicle has not been modified within a reasonable time after delivering it to the dealer on the agreed-upon service date, please contact:

Autocar, LLC
Service & Warranty Department
P.O. Box 190
Hagerstown, IN 47346-0190

or call our toll-free number: 1-877-973-3486. You may also submit a complaint to the Administrator, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 400 Seventh Street, S. W., Washington DC 20590 or call the toll-free Auto Safety Hot Line at 1-888-327-4236.

We regret any inconvenience this recall may cause, but hope you will share in our concern for your safety and satisfaction with your vehicle.

Sincerely

AUTOCAR, LLC

SAFETY RECALL NOTICE



PHOTO 1



SAFETY RECALL NOTICE



PHOTO 2