

May 16 2005

Ms. Kelly Schuler
Recall Management Division, NHTSA
400 Seventh Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20590.

RE: NHTSA Recall Campaign No. 04E06700

Dear Ms. Schuler:

I am writing to you in regards to a recall that we are currently conducting at Reading Truck Body, Inc. and I would like to provide you with background information on who we are and what we do. In addition, our first quarterly report on this recall is enclosed.

Reading Truck Body, Inc. manufactures service and utility bodies along with other truck equipment accessories. Our company upfits and certifies a small number of truck bodies per year, as many of the products are upfitted and certified by our network of distributors across the country.

Reading Truck Body is a relatively small company with multiple distribution channels. Most of the truck bodies we produce are sold through the above-mentioned network of distributors and commercial truck dealerships, while a small number are sold directly to utility and other fleet and leasing organizations. When a sale is made by a Ford or GM dealer, the customer information is held by that dealer. Consequently, we do not have extensive records on all end-users of our products.

In September 2004, we submitted a Part 573 Report to NHTSA relating to the galvanized steel support cables used on the tailgates of specified Classic II and Aerotech service bodies; this Report was filed due to concerns about the potential risk of corrosion within the cable covering. These steel support cables, which are manufactured by one of our vendors, retain the tailgate in the open, horizontal position. Based upon the very small number of reported incidents or injuries, the risk of cable failure is believed to be remote. Nevertheless, in the interest of avoiding any potential risk and based in part on our consultations with NHTSA, the company decided to go forward with a recall.

In late November and early December, after consulting with NHTSA, we issued recall notices to our network of distributors and to customers who were believed to have purchased the products with these cables. In addition, beginning in September, we replaced the galvanized steel cables with stainless steel cables on all truck bodies in our inventory and on all subsequent production runs.

At this time, I would like to bring you up to date on this recall and provide you with a few key facts:

- As of this date, out of approximately 15,000 truck bodies manufactured during the operative time period, we have received only two reports of injuries, both relatively minor.
- Currently, we are still in the process of contacting and locating customers affected by the recall. Due to the fact that our truck bodies are distributed and sold through multiple channels, Reading Truck Body does not have readily available a complete list of all end-users. However, we have taken the following actions to locate end users:
 - (1) All customers who have registered their warranties with Reading Truck Body within the last six years have automatically been sent a notice of the recall and instructions on how to proceed.
 - (2) We have asked all of our distributors to provide us with a list of their customers who purchased the products affected by the recall but did not register their warranties with Reading Truck Body. As we receive their information, we contact these end users directly.
- We have decreased our initial estimation of the number of truck bodies affected from 19,000 to 15,000. Approximately 4,000 of the vehicles that could have been affected by the galvanized steel cables had other accessories installed, *i.e.*, panel bodies or liftgates, that eliminated the use of tailgates.

Work on this recall is continuing, but we have been very aggressive in our response and have been very proactive in contacting any Reading distributors and/or customers known to be impacted by this recall. As we move forward, Reading Truck Body will continue to keep NHTSA up to date with the status of the recall. In the meantime, if you have questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to call me. Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

Chuck Schaeffer
Quality Manager
Reading Truck Body, Inc.
(610) 775-3301