



U.S. Department
of Transportation

400 Seventh Street, SW
Washington, DC 20590

**National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration**

FEB - 4 2005

STAN GORNICK
AUTOCAR, LLC
5515 WASHINGTON STREET
P.O. BOX 190
HAGERSTOWN IN 47346

NVS-215
05V-032

Subject: AUTOCAR/BENDIX/ABS BRAKE SYSTEM

Dear MR. GORNICK:

This letter is to acknowledge your recent defect or noncompliance information report. Please review the following information to ensure that it conforms to your records.

Makes/Models/Model Years:

AUTOCAR/WX/2003-2004
AUTOCAR/WXLL/2003-2004
AUTOCAR/WXR/2003-2004

NHTSA Campaign Number: 05V-032

Recall Date: January 31, 2005

Components:

SERVICE BRAKES, AIR:ANTILOCK:ABS WARNING LIGHT

Potential Number of Units Affected: 140

Summary:

ON CERTAIN HEAVY DUTY CLASS 8 TRUCKS EQUIPPED WITH BENDIX AUTOMATIC BRAKE SYSTEMS (ABS), THE BRAKES MAY HAVE A SYSTEM FAULT THAT MAY NOT BE DETECTED BY THE ABS ELECTRONIC CONTROL UNIT (ECU) AND THEREFORE WILL NOT GENERATE AN ABS WARNING LIGHT ON THE DASH OF THE TRUCK.

Consequence:

THE ABS BRAKES MAY NOT PERFORM AS DESIGNED AND IN AN ABS ASSISTED STOP THE DRIVER MAY NOT BE ABLE TO MAINTAIN STEERING CONTROL OF THE VEHICLE. WHEN VEHICLE CONTROL IS COMPROMISED, THERE IS A CHANCE FOR A CRASH.

Remedy:

DEALERS WILL INSPECT, RESET AND CHECK THE ECU FOR FAULT LIGHTS AND CHECK THE ABS BRAKE. THE RECALL IS EXPECTED TO BEGIN AT THE END OF FEBRUARY 2005. OWNERS SHOULD CONTACT AUTOCAR AT 1-877-973-3486.

Notes:

AUTOCAR RECALL NO. A-0502. CUSTOMERS CAN ALSO CONTACT THE NATIONAL HIGHWAY TRAFFIC SAFETY ADMINISTRATION'S AUTO SAFETY HOTLINE AT 1-888-327-4236.

Effective October 21, 2004, Autocar must provide an estimated dealer notification date as well as an owner notification date (month/day/year).

I have reviewed your proposed owner letter and it does not meet the requirements of Part 577.

- (1) In the second paragraph, please change it to read: "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 July 2003 & December 2004 with VIN number range 200003 to 201636." (You cannot use the word "may" – this is considered to be a disclaimer under the regulations.)
- (2) Under "Potential Risk," please change the last sentence to read: "Any time vehicle control is compromised there is a chance for a vehicle crash."

Please let me know the date when the actual mailing takes place and, as usual, provide this office with final copies of all documents relating to the recall.


Also, copies of all notices, bulletins, dealer notifications, and other communications that relate to this recall, including a copy of the final owner notification letter and any subsequent owner follow-up notification letter(s), are to be submitted to this office no later than 5 days after they are originally sent (if they are sent to more than one manufacturer, distributor, dealer, or purchaser/owner).

As stated in Part 573.7, submission of the first of six consecutive quarterly status reports is required within one month after the close of the calendar quarter in which notification to purchasers occurs. As stated in your report, the recall is expected to begin at the end of February 2005. Therefore, the first quarterly report will be due by April 30, 2005.

Your contacts for this recall will be Pat Wallace or Delia Lopez, who may be reached by phone at 202-366-5232 or 202-366-9525 or by email at patricia.wallace@nhtsa.dot.gov or delia.lopez@nhtsa.dot.gov. We look forward to working with you for successful completion of this recall campaign.

Sincerely,



 George H. Person
Chief, Recall Management Division