



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration**

400 Seventh Street, SW
Washington, DC 20590

MAR 17 2005

C. WAYNE ISBILL
TARASPORT TRAILERS, INC.
PRESIDENT PO BOX 327, 150 INDUSTRIAL PARK ROAD
SWEETWATER TN 37874-0327

NVS-215
05V-097

Subject: FMVSS 223/INCORRECT BUMPER HEIGHT

Dear MR. ISBILL:

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 as this is the information that will be made available to the public.

Makes/Models/Model Years:

TARASPORT/DROP DECK/1998-2005
TARASPORT/STRAIGHT DECK/1998-2005

NHTSA Campaign Number: 05V-097

Recall Date: March 9, 2005

Components:

STRUCTURE:BODY:BUMPERS

Potential Number of Units Affected: 35

Summary:

CERTAIN DROP AND STRAIGHT DECK TRAILERS FAIL TO CONFORM TO THE REQUIREMENTS OF FEDERAL MOTOR VEHICLE SAFETY STANDARD NO. 223, 'REAR IMPACT GUARDS.' THE GUARD HAS A VERTICAL HEIGHT OF 63.5MM (2 1/2 INCHES) AND SHOULD BE AT LEAST 100MM (4 INCHES).

Consequence:

THIS DOES NOT MEET THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE STANDARD.

Remedy:

TARASPORT WILL INSTALL A 100MM REAR HORIZONTAL MEMBER TO THE TRAILERS. THE RECALL IS EXPECTED TO BEGIN DURING MARCH OR APRIL 2005. OWNERS SHOULD CONTACT TARASPORT AT 1-423-337-4660.

Notes:

CUSTOMERS CAN ALSO CONTACT THE NATIONAL HIGHWAY TRAFFIC SAFETY ADMINISTRATION'S AUTO SAFETY HOTLINE AT 1-888-327-4236.

Under 49 U.S.C. § 30112(a), it is illegal for anyone, including a manufacturer, distributor, dealer, or retailer to sell an item of equipment or vehicle that fails to comply with all applicable Federal motor vehicle safety standards.

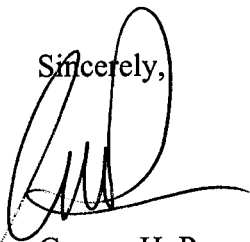
Effective October 21, 2004, a manufacturer must provide an estimated dealer notification date as well as an owner notification date (month/day/year) when submitting a defect/noncompliance report (Part 573.6).

You are required to submit a draft owner notification letter to this office no less than five days prior to mailing it to the customers. 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, owner notification is expected to begin during the end of March or early April 2005. Therefore, the first quarterly report will be due by July 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G. Person', with a large loop at the top and a horizontal line extending to the right.

George H. Person
Chief, Recall Management Division