



U.S. Department  
of Transportation

400 Seventh Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20590

**National Highway  
Traffic Safety  
Administration**

*November 16, 2005*

ROBERT FLEISCHACKER  
GENERAL COUNSEL AND SECRETARY  
STOUGHTON TRAILERS, LLC  
416 SOUTH ACADEMY STREET  
STOUGHTON WI 53589-0606

NVS-215  
05V-508

Subject: TRAILER SUSPENSION/TRAILER WANDERS/TUTHILL

Dear MR. FLEISCHACKER:

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:**  
STOUGHTON/VAN TRAILER/2004-2005

**NHTSA Campaign Number:** 05V-508

**Mfg's Report Date:** October 20, 2005

**Components:** SUSPENSION

**Potential Number of Units Affected:** 72

**Summary:**  
ON CERTAIN 53' ALUMINUM SMOOTH SIDE VAN TRAILERS EQUIPPED WITH TUTHILL TRAILER SUSPENSIONS, MODELS 20/22 AND RS3162. THE BEAM/AXLE PIVOT CONNECTION JOINT IS MIS-ALIGNED CAUSING EXCESSIVE PLAY WITH THE TRAILER ALLOWING THE TRAILER TO WANDER.

**Consequence:**  
A VEHICLE CRASH CAN OCCUR SHOULD THE TRAILER WANDER WITHOUT NOTICE.

**Remedy:**

STOUGHTON IS WORKING WITH TUTHILL TO NOTIFY THE OWNERS OF THE AFFECTED VEHICLES AND PROVIDE FREE REMEDY. OWNERS SHOULD CONTACT TUTHILL AT 800-753-0025 OR STOUGHTON AT 1-608-873-2500.

**Notes:**

CUSTOMERS CAN ALSO CONTACT THE NATIONAL HIGHWAY TRAFFIC SAFETY ADMINISTRATION'S VEHICLE SAFETY HOTLINE AT 1-888-327-4236 (TTY 1-800-424-9153), OR GO TO [HTTP://WWW.SAFERCAR.GOV](http://www.safercar.gov).

The information in your defect report appears to satisfy the requirements of 49 CFR 573.6.

Stoughton must notify their customers. Accordingly, 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. If you decide to use the sample Tuthill provided, please be aware that a few changes will be needed.

Under "Reason for the Recall," the first sentence needs to begin with "Stoughton Trailers, LLC, in conjunction with Tuthill Transport Technologies, has decided that a defect ....".

Also at the end of the paragraph, a risk needs to be added, i.e., 'A truck driver will notice wandering of the trailer caused by misalignment of one axle to the other, *increasing the risk of a crash*.

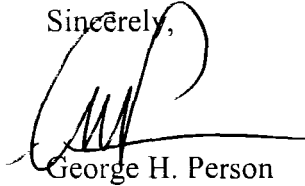
Also, under "What you should do," please add after the NHTSA address "or call the toll-free Vehicle Safety Hotline at 1-888-327-4236 (TTY: 1-800-424-9153); or go to <http://www.safercar.gov>."

Additionally, 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 your report, Tuthill will be conducting the quarterly reporting for this campaign. However, please be advised if Tuthill's campaign is not satisfactorily handled, the agency will require you to renotify owners.

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](mailto:patricia.wallace@nhtsa.dot.gov) or [delia.lopez@NHTSA.dot.gov](mailto: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', written over a horizontal line.

George H. Person  
Chief, Recall Management Division  
Office of Defects Investigation  
Enforcement