



U.S. Department  
of Transportation

400 Seventh Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20590

**National Highway  
Traffic Safety  
Administration**

DEC 7 2005

R. JOE SCHAFFER  
SECRETARY/TREASURER  
WELD-IT COMPANY  
4477 SHEILA STREET  
LOS ANGELES CA 90023

NVS-215  
05V-545

Subject: TRAILER SUSPENSION/TRAILER WANDERS/TUTHILL

Dear MR. SCHAFFER:

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:**  
WELD-IT/TRAILER/1996-2001

**NHTSA Campaign Number:** 05V-545

**Mfg's Report Date:** November 29, 2005

**Components:** SUSPENSION

**Potential Number of Units Affected:** 105

**Summary:**

ON CERTAIN FULL TRAILERS (TANKERS) EQUIPPED WITH TUTHILL TRAILER SUSPENSIONS, MODELS 20/20. 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:**

WELD-IT 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 WELD-IT AT 1-323-262-2000.

**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).

This recall was the subject of an Equipment Query, EQ05-027, conducted by the Office of Defects Investigation.

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

Weld-It 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 "Weld-It Company, in conjunction with Tuthill Transport Technologies, has decided that a defect ....".

Also at the end of the paragraph, a risk needs to be added.

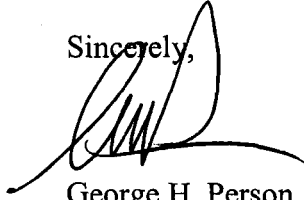
Also, under "What you should do," please add after the NHTSA address "or call the toll-free Vehicle Safety Hotline at 1-888-327-4236 (TTY: 1-800-424-9153); or go to <http://www.safercar.gov>."

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', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the left.

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