

May 19, 2005

SENT VIA FACSIMILE (202) 366-7882 & E-MAIL

Attn: Mr. George Person

Recall Management Division
Office of Defects Investigation (NEF-111)
Safety Assurance
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
400 Seventh Street SW
Washington, D.C. 20590

05V-237
(2 pages)

Re: Airglide High-Articulation Rear Suspension
Kenworth Recall No.: 05KW4

Dear Mr. Person:

On May 18, 2004, PACCAR Inc determined that a defect which relates to motor vehicle safety exists in the Kenworth vehicles described below, and is furnishing notification to NHTSA in accordance with 49 CFR Part 573 "Defect and Noncompliance Reports."

Description of the Defect

The C65-1006 sway bar used in the Airglide high-articulation rear suspension may experience a reduction in fatigue life due to either a manufacturing process or a high induced stress during an extreme suspension articulation event. The manufacturer of the sway bar arm, Horikiri, Inc. of Chiba, Japan, uses a two pass tapering operation to produce the desired arm profile. This process results in a percentage of arms that need straightening. The straightening process can weaken the sway bar arms. Recent testing also revealed that the sway bar fatigue life is reduced when the suspension is subjected to an event producing maximum suspension articulation. Both these conditions can lead to a failure of the sway bar which could cause the rear axle to come loose.

Identification of Affected Vehicles

The recall population of Kenworth vehicles is comprised of Kenworth models T600, T800 and W900, T2000 and C500 vehicles, manufactured between December 6, 2004 and May 13, 2005. There are approximately 850 vehicles involved in the campaign.

Chronology of Events Leading to Recall

On February 17, 2005 Kenworth was informed of a vehicle incident in British Columbia. During a review of the incident, a failed sway bar arm was found. An investigation was initiated which included metallurgical and component evaluations, fatigue tests and in person meeting with the component supplier of the sway bar arm. Based on the incident investigation and the analysis and testing, the Kenworth Safety Committee has determined that a safety related defect may exist in the Airglide high articulation suspension with the C65-1006 high articulation sway bars.

Description of Remedy

Kenworth will notify customers and dealers of the safety campaign. The inspection and repair will depend on the type of vehicle (tractor or truck) and the intended service application. This inspection and repair criteria will be outlined in the forthcoming dealer bulletin.

Identification of Recall Schedule

Kenworth's number for this campaign is "05KW4".

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kenneth R. Brownstein". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Kenneth" being more prominent and the last name "Brownstein" following in a similar style.

Kenneth R. Brownstein
Senior Counsel

KRB:rls

E-mail:ken.brownstein@paccar.com