



GVW A GVW Holdings Company

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2006 FEB -9 10 12:55
DEFECT INVESTIGATION

January 31, 2006

Associate Administrator for Enforcement
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
400 Seventh Street, S. W.
Washington, DC 20590

06V-042
(4 pages)

Re: Report Pursuant to 49 CFR 573.6
Autocar, LLC, Recall No. A-0601

The following information is in accordance with the requirements of 49 CFR Part 573.6 as it applies to a defect relating to motor vehicle safety.

573.6(c)(1)
Autocar, LLC

573.6(c)(2)
Autocar WX, WXR and WXLL model, heavy-duty class 8 vehicles manufactured between April 2004 and January 2006. Affected vehicles are fitted with a parallel to frame longitudinal battery box with battery disconnect switch and are built with a combination of Autocar sales codes 812063 (RH Battery box mounted parallel to frame) and 814011(Battery disconnect switch).

573.6(c)(3)
There are thirty (30) affected vehicles, with serial numbers in the range 200654 through 203388.

573.6(c)(4)
100% of vehicles in above range expected to contain the suspect defect.

573.6(c)(5)
Exposed 12V terminals on the battery disconnect switch is in close proximity to a hinged metal latch on the battery box lid. When latching or un-latching the battery box lid, it is possible that a person wearing metal jewelry (like a watch or finger ring) might ground the metal latch through the jewelry to the exposed terminals on the battery disconnect

switch. The resulting electrical short circuit current may heat up the metal jewelry and could cause burns.

Figure 1 below shows the position of the right-hand battery box, the battery disconnect switch and the metal latch on the battery box lid.

Figure 2 shows the proximity of the latch to the 12V terminals and where the short circuit might occur.

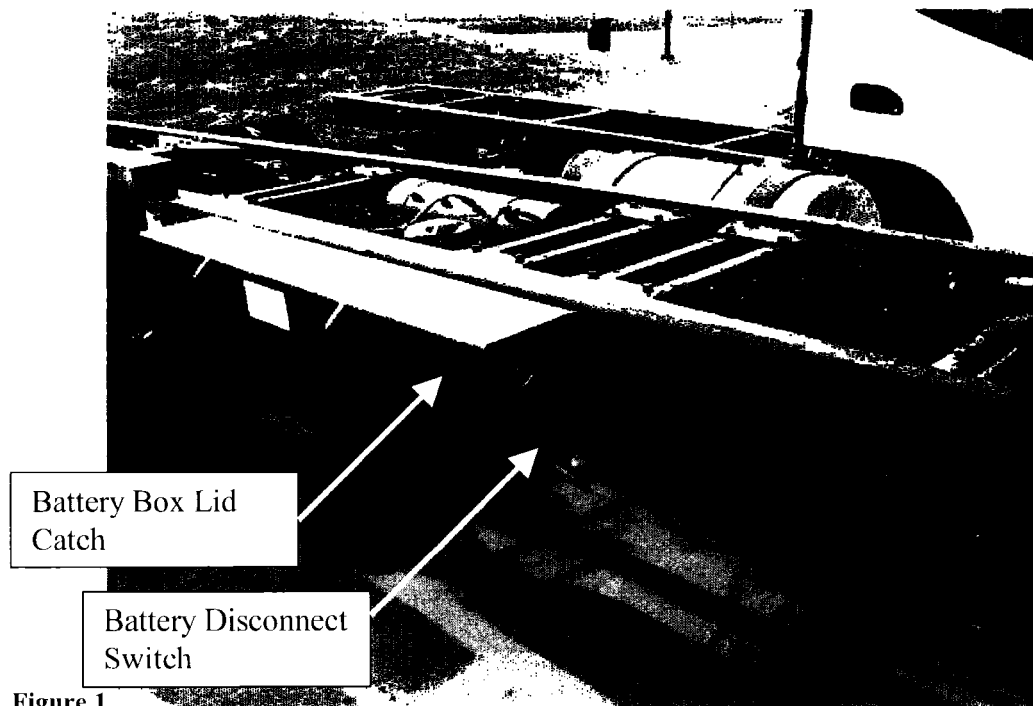


Figure 2



573.6 (c)(6)

- 1/19/06 Autocar received an e-mail from a customer referring to an incident where a person received minor burns to his finger when he grounded the 12V terminals to the metal catch through his finger ring.
- 1/20/06 VP of engineering was notified and requested a full investigation and redesign if required.
- 1/27/06 Investigation completed. Redesigned installation drawing produced.
- 1/31/06 Product Integrity Committee Meeting resulting in determination that issue should be handled as a safety related recall.

573.6(c)(7)

Not applicable.

573.6(c)(8)(i)

Autocar will initiate a voluntary owner notification and recall based on the vehicle population found with the sales options described in 573.6(c)(2) above.

Autocar will relocate the switch to a position further away from the metal catch and install isolating protectors over the battery disconnect switch terminals.



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573.6(c)(8)(ii)

2/6/06 573.6 letter to NHTSA
2/7/06 Owner Notification Letter to Office of Defects Investigation
2/15/06 Owner Notification Letter to affected vehicle owners

573.6(c)(9)

Not Applicable

The number which Autocar LLC, has assigned to this recall for tracking purposes is A-0601.

Very truly yours,

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