



06V-065

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OFFICE OF DEFECTS
INVESTIGATION

PART 573 Noncompliance Report #4 – 9/15/2006
(Revisions from Report #3 in Boxes)

On March 6, 2006 The Charles Machine Works, Inc. determined that a non-compliance with the Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards which relates to motor vehicle safety exists in the motor vehicles listed below, and is furnishing notification to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration in accordance with 49 CFR Part 573 Defect and Noncompliance Reports.

This initial report was prepared on March 7, 2006.

The manufacturer's identification code for this recall is

06V-065

1. Identify the full corporate name of the fabrication manufacturer of the recalled vehicles.

The Charles Machine Works, Inc.
PO Box 66
1959 West Fir Street
Perry, OK 73077

Identify the corporate official, by name and title, which the agency should contact with respect to this recall.

Richard L. Lambert
Product Safety Coordinator

Telephone Number
Facsimile
E mail

580-572-2480
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Name and Title of Person who prepared this report

Richard L. Lambert
Product Safety Coordinator

Signed



I. Identifying the Vehicle Models Involved in the Recall

2. Identify the Vehicles Involved in the Recall, for each make and model or applicable vehicle line (provide illustrations or photographs as necessary to describe the vehicle), provide:

Make(s): Ditch Witch
 Model(s): T18S, T26S & **T12S**
 Model Years Involved: Not Applicable
 Production Date: 1/1/2000 to 9/8/2006
 VIN's: see attached list for **T12S** (see Report #2 for T18S & Report #3 for T26S)
 Vehicle Type: Trailer Bodystyle: Not Applicable

Descriptive information which characterizes/distinguishes the recalled vehicles from those model vehicles not included in the recall:

All model T18S, T26S & **T12S** trailers are to be recalled.

Identify the approximate percentage of the production of all the recalled models manufactured by your company between the inclusive dates of manufacture provided above, that the recalled model population represents.

100% – A model T12S (1DSB122C361702207) in dealer inventory has had a rear impact guard installed, but is awaiting the results of rear impact guard test before being placed in service.

II. Identifying the Recalled Population

3. Furnish the total number of vehicles recalled potentially containing the defect or noncompliance.

	T18S	T26S	T12S
Number of trailers in service in the U.S.	Unknown	26	25
Number of trailers in dealer inventory	Unknown	15	1
Total number of trailers affected by the recall in US:	632	41	26

4. Furnish the approximate percentage of the total number of vehicles estimated to actually contain the defect or noncompliance:

100%

Identify and describe how the recall population was determined – in particular how the recalled models were selected and the basis for the inclusive date of manufacture:

All Model T18S, T26S & **T12S** trailers are non-compliant.

III. Identifying the Defect or Noncompliance

5. Describe the defect or noncompliance. The description should include the nature and physical location of the defect or noncompliance. Illustrations should be provided as appropriate.

The T18S, T26S & **T12S** trailers have been determined not to be exempt from the requirement to have a rear impact guard meeting the requirements of 49CFR571.223 as per the section S3 of 49CFR571.224 and section (a)(1) of 49CFR393.86. Additionally, reflective tape is being added to the sides of the trailer (T18S only).

If this report is for a noncompliance, identify the applicable section of the standard:

See above

Describe the cause(s) of the defect or noncompliance condition.

The cause of the non-compliance was a misinterpretation of the Federal Motor Vehicle and Federal Motor Carrier regulations.

Describe the consequence(s) of the defect or noncompliance condition.

Unknown

Identify any warning which can (a) proceed or (b) occur.

Not Applicable

If the defect or noncompliance is in a component or assembly purchased from a supplier, identify the supplier by corporate name and address.

Not Applicable

Identify the name and title of the chief executive officer or knowledgeable representative of the supplier:

Not Applicable

IV. Identify the Chronology in Determining the Defect/Noncompliance

If the recall is for a defect, complete item 6, other wise item 7.

6. With respect to a defect, furnish a chronological summary (including dates) of all the principle events that were the basis for the determination of the defect. The summary should include, but not be limited to, the number of reports, accidents, injuries, fatalities, and warranty claims.

Not Applicable

7. With respect to a noncompliance, identify and provide the test results or other data (in chronological order including dates) on which the noncompliance was determined.

February 17, 2006 – Received a copy of a FAX from Ditch Witch of Minnesota about question concerning rear impact protection on FX60 vacuum system (T18S trailer).

February 17, 2006 – FAX to Ditch Witch of Minnesota about our interpretation of 49CFR393.86.

February 23, 2006 – FAX to Ditch Witch of Minnesota with a further interpretation of the rear impact guard requirements.

February 24, 2006 – Response from Minnesota State Patrol about the FAX sent on 2/23/06.

February 25 to March 3 – Further research was made into rear impact guard regulations and interpretations.

March 6, 2006 – Decision that the T18S trailers were non-compliant and that they would be recalled for modification to install a rear impact guard.

May 15, 2006 – Decision that the T26S trailers were non-compliant and that they would be recalled for modification to install a rear impact guard.

September 14, 2006 – Decision that the T12S trailers were non-compliant and that they would be recalled for modification to install a rear impact guard.

V. Identify the Remedy

8. Furnish a description of the manufacturer's remedy for the defect or noncompliance. Clearly describe the differences between the recall condition and the remedy.

The Charles Machine Works will have Ditch Witch dealerships install compliant rear impact guards, install reflective tape, and move the filter canister (filter canister applicable only to T18S & **T12S**).

Clearly describe the distinguishing characteristics of the remedy component/assembly versus the recalled component/assembly.

Compliant rear impact guard with label as per 571.223

Identify and describe how and when the recall condition was corrected in production. If the production remedy was identical to the recall remedy in the field, so state. If the product was discontinued, so state.

Trailer production of this type has been suspended as of March 6, 2006 until rear impact guards can be designed, tested, and installed. During the week of March 20, 2006 production of T18S trailers resumed and they will be identical to recall remedied trailers.

As of September 14, 2006 production of the T12S trailer has been suspended. Shipment of T18S & T26S trailers has resumed

VI. Recall Schedule

Furnish a schedule or agenda (with specific dates) for notification to other manufacturers, dealers/retailers, and purchasers. Please, identify any foreseeable problems with implementing the recall.

Not yet determined for the T12S

VII. Recall Communications

9. Furnish a final copy of all notices, bulletins, and other communications that relate directly to the defect or noncompliance and which are sent to more than one manufacturer, distributor, or purchaser. This includes all communications concerning this recall from the time your company determines the defect or noncompliance condition on, not just the initial notification. A DRAFT copy of the notification documents SHOULD BE submitted to this office by telefax (FAX: 202-366-7882) for review prior to mailing.

For the Model T18S see report #2 and Model T26S see report #3.

T12S documents being developed and will be submitted for approval.

Note that these documents are to be submitted separately from those provided in accordance with Part 573.8 requirements.

Ditch Witch Trailer Model T12S - Vehicle Identification Numbers	
In Service	
1	1DSB122C261702201
2	1DSB122C861702204
3	1DSB122CX61702205
4	1DSB122C161702206
5	1DSB122C461702202
6	1DSB122C661702203
7	1DSB122C1517Z2651
8	1DSB122C3517Z2652
9	1DSB122C9417Y2609
10	1DSB122C7417Y2608
11	1DSB122C5417Y2607
12	1DSB122C3417Y2606
13	1DSB122C1417Y2605
14	1DSB122CX417Y2604
15	1DSB122C8417Y2603
16	1DSB122C6417Y2602
17	1DSB122C4417Y2601
18	1DSB122CX317X4257
19	1DSB122C1317X4258
20	1DSB122C6317X4255
21	1DSB122C8317X4256
22	1DSB122C2317X4253
23	1DSB122C4317X4254
24	1DSB122C9317X4251
25	1DSB122C0317X4252
In Dealer Inventory	
26	1DSB122C361702207