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3-22-06

06V-102
(6 pages)

To: George H. Person
Chief, Recall Management Division
U.S. Department of Transportation
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
400 Seventh Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Subject: Refr: EQ05-007

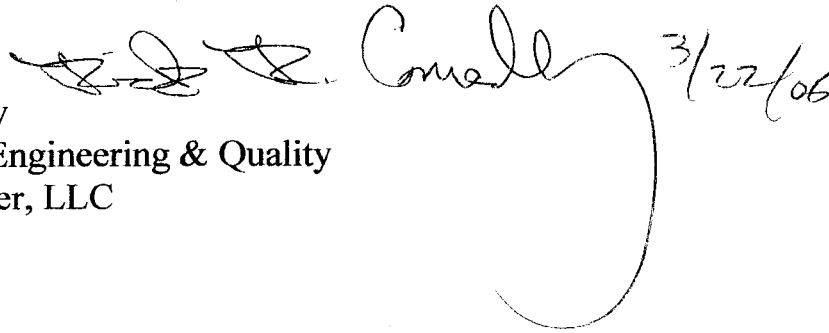
Reference: Part 573 Defect and Noncompliance Report: Accuride
Corporation 22.5 x 8.25, 15 degree Tubeless, Aluminum wheel
Part Number 29644ANP

Dear Chief Person:

This letter and its attachments are a follow up to your request dated 03/17/2006 (copy attached); your file # NVS-215/EQ-05-007. Polar Tank Trailer LLC is a vehicle manufacturer. Specifically, we manufacture tank trailers to haul liquid and dry bulk commodities. Pursuant to the requirements of Part 573, we were notified on 3/24/05 by one of our component vendors (Accuride Corporation) of a Safety Recall that they were initiating (copy attached). We were also notified, in that same correspondence, that a specific shipment of 96 wheels shipped by Accuride to Polar on 2/24/05 was potentially effected by the identifying date codes referred to in this Accuride recall. Polar immediately began the requested investigation, and determined the following: 28 wheels remained in our inventory and 68 wheels had already been installed on Polar trailers that had previously been delivered to customers. All 28 wheels remaining in our inventory were determined to not have the date codes referred to in the Accuride recall. The remaining 68 wheels that had been installed on Polar trailers were determined to have been installed on a total of 9 Polar trailers (list of VIN numbers and customers is attached).

Per Part 573 requirements, each customer was contacted and was requested to verify the existence of any effected wheels, (call sheets and contact comments attached). Results of this investigation determined that 7 of the 9 trailers (56 wheels) were not effected by the recall criteria. Repeated contact attempts from 4/20/05 to 5/13/05 involving the remaining 2 trailers (12 wheels) were unsuccessful in obtaining the requested date code confirmations. Current status as of today's date remains unchanged. In compliance with your 03/17/2006 request, a Part 573 Defect and Nonconformance report from Polar Tank Trailer, LLC concerning the above referenced topic is attached.

Sincerely,
Rick R. Connelly
Vice President, Engineering & Quality
Polar Tank Trailer, LLC

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Rick R. Connelly", followed by the date "3/22/06". The signature is written in dark ink on a white background.

Safety Defect and Noncompliance Report Guide For Equipment
PART 573 Defect and Noncompliance Report

Polar Tank Trailer, LLC a vehicle manufacturer, acknowledges that it has been informed by one of its component suppliers (Accuride Corporation) that the following had occurred:

On March 7, 2005 Accuride Corporation decided that a defect that may relate to motor vehicle safety exists in the motor vehicle equipment listed below, and is furnishing notification to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration in accordance with 49 CFR Part 573 Defect and Noncompliance Reports.

Trailers produced by Polar Tank Trailer have been identified as possibly being effected by this component defect.

Date this report was prepared by Polar Tank Trailer: March 22, 2006.

Furnish the manufacturer's identification code for this recall (if applicable) :
N/A

1. Identify the full corporate name of the fabricating manufacturer of the recalled item of equipment. If the recalled item of equipment is imported, provide the name and mailing address of the designated agent as prescribed by 49 U.S.C. S30164.

Polar Tank Trailer, LLC (Involves equipment manufactured by supplier: Accuride Corporation).

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

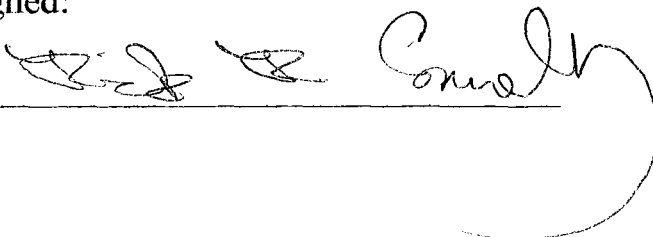
Rick R. Connelly, Vice President, Engineering and Quality

Telephone Number: (320) 746-2255 Fax Number: (320) 746-2937

Name and Title of person who prepared this report.

Rick R. Connelly, Vice President Engineering and Quality

Signed:


3/22/06

I. Identify the Recalled Items of Equipment

2. Identify the Items of Equipment Involved in the Recall, for each make and model or applicable item of equipment product line (provide illustrations or photographs as necessary to describe the item of equipment), provide:

Trailers produced by Polar Tank Trailer, LLC with manufacturing completion dates from 2/24/05 to 3/24/05, that may have been produced with the following component:

Generic Name of the Item: 22.5 x 8.25 15-degree tubeless aluminum wheel.

Make: Accuride Aluminum Wheel Part Number: 29644ANP

Size: 22.5 x 8.25

Production Dates: Beginning: 1/15/2005 Ending: 1/17/2005

Function: Vehicle Wheel

Other descriptive information which characterizes/distinguishes the items of equipment to be recalled:

Accuride Corporation produced these wheels at its plant in Erie, Pennsylvania. These wheels are marketed by Accuride as Accuride Aluminum Wheels.

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.

Trailers determined to have been produced with wheels that could possibly have been effected by the recall are limited to a population of 9 specific trailers with a total of 68 potentially effected wheels (see attached list)

II. Identify the Recall Population

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

Number of Items Involved: Year: 2005 Potentially: 9 Units

Trailers produced by Polar Tank Trailer, LLC Springfield, MO facility from 2/24/05 to 3/24/05.

Total Number Potentially Affected by the Recall: 9 trailers.

4. Furnish the approximate percentage of the total number of items of equipment estimated to actually contain the defect or noncompliance: 22%, (7 of the 9 trailers have been determined, so far, NOT to have the defect.

Identify and describe how the recall population was determined – in particular how the recalled models were selected and the basis for the beginning and final dates of manufacture of the recalled items of equipment: Specific identification data provided by the wheel vendor (shipment date, wheel date codes) allowed Polar to identify population that was potentially effected.

III. Describe the Defect or Noncompliance

Please refer to the attached 3/11/05 report submitted by Accuride Corporation (Part 573 Defect and Noncompliance Report).

IV. Provide the Chronology in Determining the Defect/Noncompliance

Please refer to the attached 3/11/05 report submitted by Accuride Corporation (Part 573 Defect and Compliance Report)

V. Identify the Remedy

Please refer to the attached 3/11/05 report submitted by Accuride Corporation (Part 573 Defect and Noncompliance Report)

VI. Identify the Recall Schedule

Please refer to the attached 3/11/05 report submitted by Accuride Corporation (Part 573 Defect and Noncompliance Report)

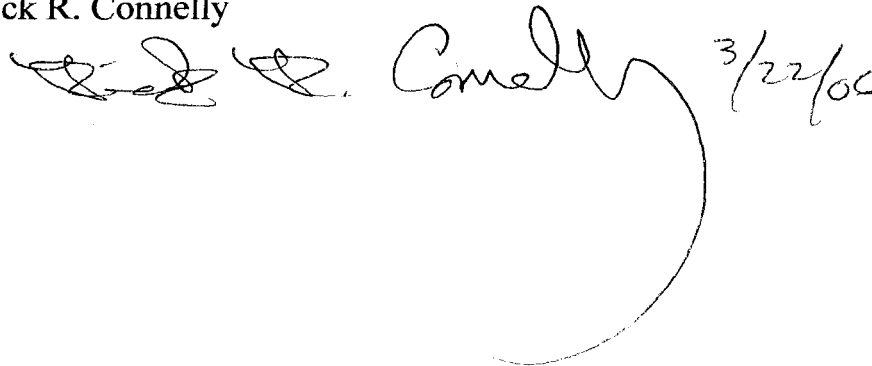
VII. Furnish Recall Communications

Please refer to the attached 3/11/05 report submitted by Accuride Corporation (Part 573 Defect and Noncompliance Report)

Also, all customers for the 9 Polar trailers potentially effected by this recall have been contacted. Copies of contact sheets and call reports are attached. All contacts were completed on 5/13/05.

Results: 7 trailers were determined not to be effected by the recall. The owners of the remaining two trailers have failed to provide us with the necessary wheel date code information to allow their equipment status to be determined.

Rick R. Connelly

A handwritten signature of Rick R. Connelly, followed by the date 3/22/06. The signature is written in cursive and is followed by a large, sweeping circular flourish.