

PART 573 Defect and Noncompliance Report

On May 18, 2006, Reinke Manufacturing Company, Inc. decided that a defect which relates to motor vehicle safety exists in items of 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.

Date this report was prepared: May 22, 2006

Manufacturer's identification code for this recall:

(Leave blank to have NHTSA assign a recall code.)

06V-186
(10 pages)

1. Manufacturer's Information

Manufacturer's full corporate or individual name: Reinke Manufacturing Company, Inc.

Corporate contact: Mr. Bob Friehe, President

Telephone No.: (402) 365-7251

Fax No.: (402) 365-4370

Name and title of person who prepared this report:

Tim Goldhammer, VP of Marketing

Signed:



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OFFICE OF
DEFECTS INVESTIGATION

2. Identification of Recalled Items of Motor Vehicle Equipment

Generic Name: Combination Steel/Aluminum Flatbed Trailers

Trailer ID: See attachment 4A which lists the affected trailers by serial number sorted by dealer name with the customer name also identified where available. If the third and fourth letters in the serial number are "FC" this would identify the trailer as a "Flatbed - Combination ". The following 2 digits would indicate trailer length.

Size: These trailers are manufactured in lengths of 45, 48', 50' and 53'

Function: These trailers are used in various applications to haul a large variety of freight types

Inclusive dates of manufacture: July 13, 2005 through April 11, 2006

Other descriptive information: These trailers are built with steel beams and an aluminum floor.

Generic Name: Combination Steel/Aluminum Dropdeck Trailers

Trailer ID: See attachment 4A which lists the affected trailers by serial number sorted by dealer name with the customer name also identified where available. If the third and fourth letters in the serial number are "DC" this would identify the trailer as a "Dropdeck - Combination ". The following 2 digits would indicate trailer length.

Size: These trailers are manufactured in lengths of 48', 51', 52' and 53'

Function: These trailers are used in various applications to haul a large variety of freight types

Inclusive dates of manufacture: July 13, 2005 through April 11, 2006

Other descriptive information: These trailers are built with steel beams and an aluminum floor.

Generic Name: Aluminum Flatbed Trailers

Trailer ID: See attachment 4A which lists the affected trailers by serial number sorted by dealer name with the customer name also identified where available. If the third and fourth letters in the serial number are "FA" this would identify the trailer as a "Flatbed - Aluminum ". The following 2 digits would indicate trailer length.

Size: These trailers are manufactured in lengths of 48', 50' and 53'

Function: These trailers are used in various applications to haul a large variety of freight types

Inclusive dates of manufacture: July 13, 2005 through April 11, 2006

Other descriptive information: These trailers are of an aluminum construction.

Basis for determining recall population: A recall is currently under way involving NHTSA #05V-332 dealing with aluminum toolbox brackets manufactured from January 1, 2003 through July 13, 2005. This particular part #223021 was involved with this initial recall. It appears as though our engineering department failed to update the bill of materials and shop drawings for this part #223021 after the recall began and we continued to manufacture and sell this part #223021 without the approved modification. We therefore need to issue this recall to those individuals who have purchased trailers equipped with these brackets through April 11, 2006.

Company sales data reveals the customers (direct first purchasers and dealers) to which the 6 trailers were sold. As much information as possible regarding customers who purchased from dealers will be obtained from trailer orders and or warranty card information.

3. Description of the Defect

Brief summary of defect:

In some instances the bracket(s) develop cracks along the bend radius lines.

Detailed description of defect addressing nature and physical location, cause, consequence and any preceding warning (including graphic aids as necessary): The failure mode is the progression of a fatigue crack along either of the bends on these two parts. During the manufacture of these parts, the bend radius was too small. As a result a stress riser was created that greatly reduced the fatigue life of the part. These small cracks can further develop based on trailer usage whereby in certain applications causing the bracket to break causing the toolbox to separate from the trailer. Please see attach drawing marked 2A that depicts bend lines.

4. Numerical Information

Total Number of items of equipment potentially containing the defect: 21 brackets

Total Number of trailers with potentially defective equipment installed: 6 trailers

Percentage of items of equipment in the recall population estimated to actually contain the defect: All brackets produced during the time period identified above were produced in the manner described above. Therefore all brackets (21) produced during that time period may be subject to defect.

5. Chronology

Collection of all principal events that were the basis for the determination that the defect related to motor vehicle safety, including a summary of all (with dates of receipt):

- **Warranty claims**
- **Field or service reports**
- **Other information**

While in the process of mailing out a second reminder to those individuals involved with the original recall we identified that this drawing had not been updated.

6. Description of Remedy Plan

General description:

What Reinke Has Done:

- Identified the names and addresses of owners who purchased from Reinke dealers and returned warranty cards who are subject to this recall.
- Began fabricating aluminum gussets that must be welded to the side of each existing bracket. The gussets will reinforce the toolbox bracket and eliminate the risk of separation due to the defective brackets.
- Performed the remedial service-in-house and determined that it will require the following amounts of labor:
 - No more than two hours of labor to install gussets on non-cracked brackets
 - No more than two and one-half hours of labor to re-weld the cracked brackets and to install gussets
- Adjusted the bend radius during the bracket manufacturing process so that newly manufactured brackets are no longer subject to the reduced fatigue life of risk of cracking.

What Reinke Will Do:

- Ship the necessary gussets (four for each mounted toolbox) along with detailed installation instructions to all owners who purchased from Reinke dealers.

Reinke Manufacturing Company, Inc.
Defect and Noncompliance Report

- Provide owners with postage paid envelopes in order to facilitate the return of necessary documentation to Reinke.
- Reimburse by check, up to the required labor costs noted above, those owners and dealers who have the remedy performed by a certified welder and provide the necessary invoices and documentation. Reimbursement will be made within 60 days of Reinke's receipt of the invoice.
- Ship additional gussets to owners if requested to do so.
- Maintain a toll free number (1-877-762-1001) for all purchasers who have questions about the recall.
- Provide information on service facilities for owners who are unable to locate a suitable facility.
- Provide quarterly reports to NHTSA pursuant to 49 CFR Part 573.7.

What The Owner Must Do:

- Arrange remedial service with a certified welder within a reasonable time and not later than 30 days after receipt of notification.
- Provide the welder with the gussets and detailed instructions that owner receives in its notification from Reinke.
- Submit to Reinke Manufacturing within 60 days of notification, an invoice referencing the owner's name and the trailer serial number.

Pre-Notification Reimbursement Plan Details

How will the owner find out about the plan?

Reinke manufacturing has included a toll free number (1-877-762-1001) in the notification letters to owners that the owners can call to find out if they are eligible and what the procedures are for reimbursement.

Reimbursement Period:

Beginning Date: April 11, 2006

End Date – 10 calendar days after the date on which last notification is mailed to owners

Exclusions:

Reinke reserves the right to exclude reimbursement for the following:

- Pre-notification remedies that were not of the same type (repair and reinforcement) as the recall remedy
- Pre-notification remedies that did not address the defect that led to the recall or a manifestation of the defect
- Pre-notification remedies that were not reasonable necessary to correct the defect that led to the recall or a manifestation of the defect
- Claimants who did not submit adequate documentation (required documentation is addressed below) to Reinke at the following address:

Reinke Manufacturing Company, Inc.
Defect and Noncompliance Report

Reinke Manufacturing Company, Inc.
Trailer Sales Department
PO Box 566
101 Reinke Road
Deshler, NE 68340

Required Documentation from claimant:

- Claimants name and mailing address
- Vehicle make, model year and serial number
- Identification of the recall (NHTSA recall number)
- Identification of the owner or purchaser of the equipment at the time the pre-notification remedy was obtained
- Receipt for the pre-notification remedy, which may be an original or copy. If for repair, the receipt must indicate that the repair addressed the defect that led to the recall or a manifestation of the defect, and state the total amount paid for the repair of that problem. Itemization will be required only if it is not clear on the face of the receipt that the repair for which reimbursement is sought addressed only the pre-notification remedy relating to the pertinent defect or manifestation thereof.

Costs to be reimbursed:

- Not less than the lessor of:
 - Amount paid by the owner for the remedy, OR
 - Cost of parts for the remedy, plus associated labor* at local labor rates, miscellaneous fees such as disposal of waste, and taxes. (If the bracket was not yet cracked at the time a pre-notification remedy was provided, the amount of labor necessary and reimbursable will be no more than 2 hours. If the bracket had begun to crack at the time of the repair, the amount of labor necessary and reimbursable will be no more than 2.5 hours)

Address to which claimant may mail reimbursement claims:

Reinke Manufacturing Company, Inc.
Trailer Sales Department
PO Box 566
101 Reinke Road
Deshler, NE 68340

Action by Reinke Manufacturing:

Reinke Manufacturing will act upon a claim for reimbursement within 60 days of the claim. If Reinke denies the claim, Reinke will send notice to the claimant within 60 days of receipt of the claim of the documentation that is needed and offer an opportunity to resubmit the claim with complete documentation.

Form of reimbursement:

Reimbursement shall be in the form of a check from the manufacturer.

The reimbursement plan will be made available to the public upon request.

Any disputes over the denial in whole or part of a claim for reimbursement shall be resolved between the claimant and Reinke Manufacturing.

Date the owner notification list will be ready: This list is complete and attached as attachment #4A

Date the remedy will be developed: May 19, 2006

Estimated date to begin sending notification to owners and dealers: May 26, 2006

Estimated date to complete sending notification to owners and dealers: May 26, 2006

Date the manufacturer will have sufficient parts to begin: Parts to repair brackets are complete and ready to ship.

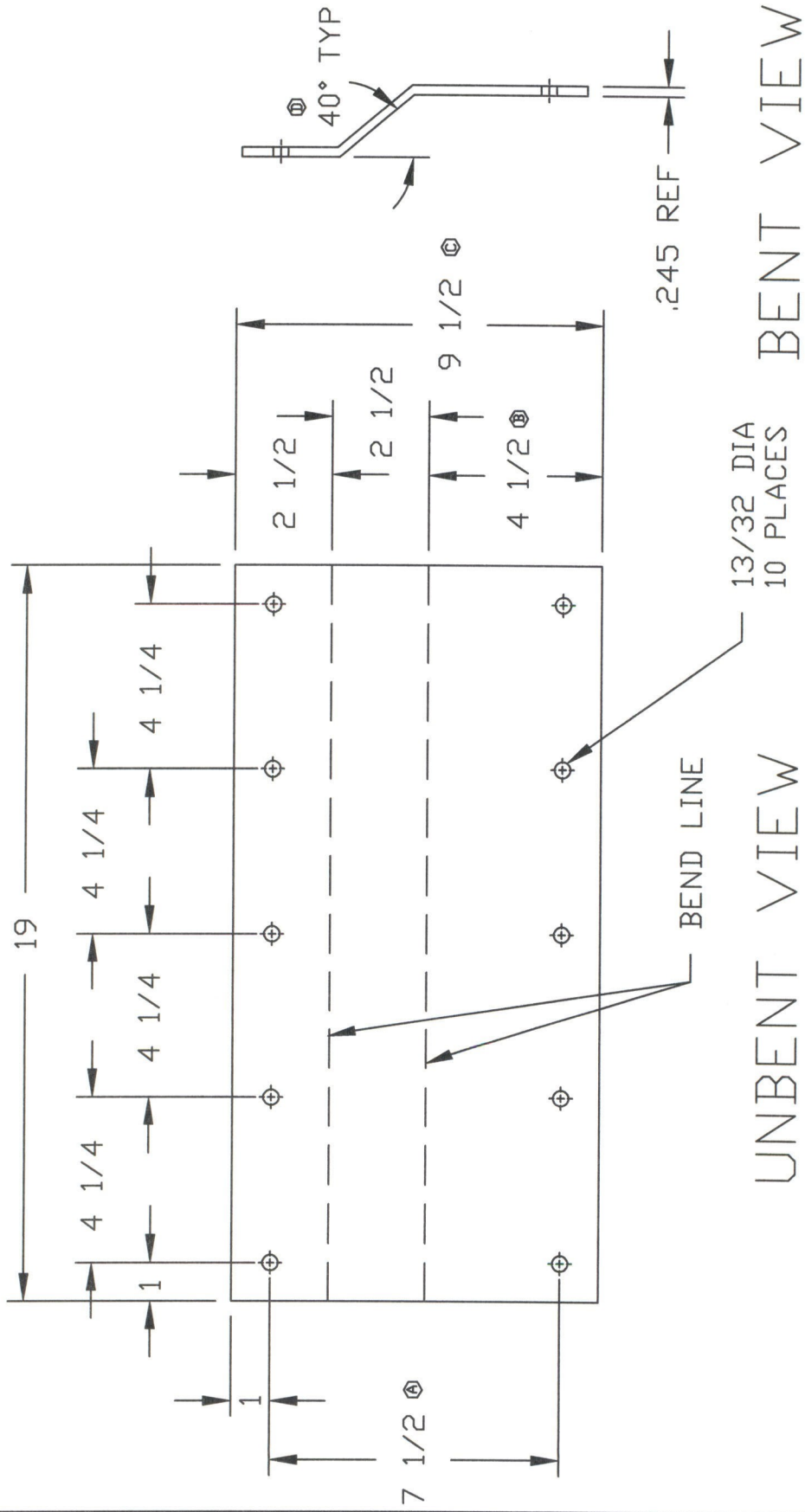
7. Related Documents

Submit a representative copy of all notices, bulletins, and other communications that related directly to the defect and are sent to more than one manufacturer, distributor, dealer, or purchaser.

Submit report by certified mail to:

**Associate Administrator for Safety Assurance (NSA-01)
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
400 7th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20590**

**Fax copy to the attention of the Chief, Defects and Recall Information Analysis Division
Fax No.: (202) 366-7882**



UNBENT VIEW

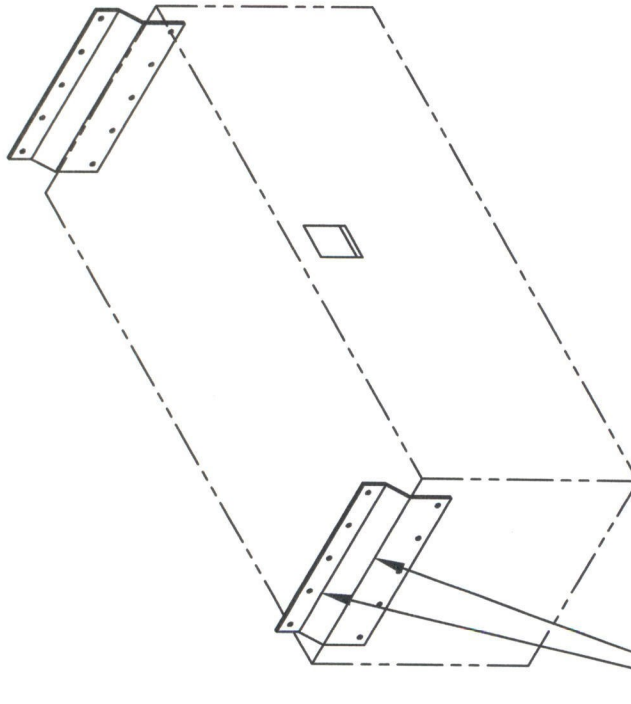
BENT VIEW

| | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|
| REINKE MANUFACTURING CO., INC. BESHLER, NEBRASKA 68370 | |
| Title: TOOL BOX MOUNTING BRACKET | Tr. By: |
| Dr. By: MRV | App. By: <i>MRV</i> |
| Scale: 1/4 | Date: 11/30/88 |
| Reinke Part No. 223021 | |

| D | WAS 35°, NDW 40° | 3/93 | MRV |
|-----|--------------------------|------|--------|
| C | WAS 7 1/2, NDW 9 1/2 | 2/90 | MRV |
| B | WAS 2 1/2, NDW 4 1/2 | 2/90 | MRV |
| A | WAS 5 1/2, NDW 7 1/2 | 2/90 | MRV |
| NO. | MODIFICATION DESCRIPTION | DATE | CHK BY |

| REF. R. PART NO/REQ'D | DESCRIPTION | MATERIAL | SPECIFICATION |
|-----------------------|-------------|----------|---------------|
| 1 | .245 PLATE | ALUMINUM | 5454 H34 |
| LIST OF MATERIALS | | | |

REINKE PART NO. -----



POTENTIAL CRACKS IN BEND AREA

Copyright, 2005, Reinke Manufacturing Co., Inc
 REINKE MANUFACTURING CO., INC.
 DESHLER, NEBRASKA 68340

TOLERANCES
 U.S.

LINEAR
 ±1/32 - X ≤ 60"
 ±1/16 - X > 60"
 ±.005 - .XXX
 ANG = ±1/2°

DIAMETERS
 +.005 DIA's = X ≤ 3"
 -.010 DIA's = 3' < X < 1'
 +.005 DIA's = 3' < X < 1'

Title: TOOLBOX MOUNT INSTALLATION

Dr. By: MRV

Tr. By:

Ck. By:

App. By:

Scale: N/A

Date: 7/14/05

Reinke Part No. -----

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| REF | R. PART NO. | REQ'D | DESCRIPTION |
|-------------------|-------------|-------|-------------|
| LIST OF MATERIALS | | | |

| Dealer | Serial # | CO # | Toolbox Part # | Toolbox Qty | Toolbox Description | Customer Name | Address | City | State | Zip | Phone | Date Letter Sent | Return Receipt |
|----------------------------|-------------------|--------|----------------|-------------|-----------------------------------|---------------|---------|------|-------|-----|-------|------------------|----------------|
| Leland Trailer & Equipment | 4C6DC522561080473 | 110177 | 243041 | 2 | TOOLBOX OPT-DDCT 24X18X60-2DR | | | | | | | | |
| Leland Trailer & Equipment | 4C6FC534661100898 | 114632 | 243043-A | 2 | BOX OPT-AERO 24X24X60-2 DOOR | | | | | | | | |
| North American, LLC | 4C6DC522761080474 | 110179 | 254457-A | 2 | TOOLBOX OPTION-DDCT 181860 1DR | | | | | | | | |
| North American, LLC | 4C6DC482X61090482 | 111129 | 254451 | 2 | TOOLBOX OPT DDCT 242048SS 1DR | | | | | | | | |
| North American, LLC | 4C6DC482X61090482 | 111129 | 254452 | 8 | TOOLBOX OPT DDCT 242060SS 1DR | | | | | | | | |
| Superior Trailer Sales | 4C6DC482671030118 | 118668 | 253088-A | 4 | TOOLBOX OPT-24X20X72-1 SS HIGH | | | | | | | | |
| Midwest Trailer Sales | 4C6F4482871030121 | 118674 | 90670016 | 1 | BOX-OPT-HIGHWAY-LOW 24X24X60 2 DR | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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ATTACHMENT 4A