

Safety Defect and Noncompliance Report Guide for Vehicles
PART 573 Defect and Noncompliance Responsibility and Reports¹

06V-282
(11 pages)

On June 9th, 2006, Alfa Leisure [MFR] decided that (a defect which relates to motor vehicle safety)(a noncompliance with Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard No. _____) 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 Responsibility and Reports.

Date this report was prepared: June 12th 2006

Furnish the manufacturer's identification code for this recall (if applicable): _____

1. Identify the full corporate name of the fabricating manufacturer of the vehicle being recalled. If the recalled vehicle is imported, provide the name and mailing address of the designated agent as prescribed by 49 U.S.C. §30164.

Alfa Leisure Inc.

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

Alan Westerlin, TREAD Act Coordinator

Telephone Number: 800 373 3372 Fax No.: 909 628 0294

Name and Title of Person who prepared this report,

Alan Westerlin
TREAD Act Coordinator

Signed:



¹ Each manufacturer must furnish a report, to the Associate Administrator for Enforcement, for each defect or noncompliance condition which relates to motor vehicle safety.

This guide was developed from 49 CFR Part 573, "Defect and Noncompliance Responsibility and Reports" and also outlines information currently requested. Any questions, please consult the complete Part 573 or contact Mr. George Person at (202) 366-5210 or by FAX at (202) 366-7882.

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NHTSA

I. Identify 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): Alfa Model Years Involved: 2007 Model(s): Gold, Toyhouse
Production Dates: Beginning: 5/30/06 Ending: Currently still in Production
VIN Range: Beginning: 14004 Ending: 14019
Vehicle Type: Trailer Bodystyle: _____

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

Disc Brake Mounting hardware used only on Gold and Certain Toyhouse models.

Make(s): _____ Model Years Involved: _____ Model(s): _____
Production Dates: Beginning: _____ Ending: _____
VIN Range: Beginning: _____ Ending: _____
Vehicle Type: _____ Bodystyle: _____

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

Make(s): _____ Model Years Involved: _____ Model(s): _____
Production Dates: Beginning: _____ Ending: _____
VIN Range: Beginning: _____ Ending: _____
Vehicle Type: _____ Bodystyle: _____

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

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. For example, if the recall involved Widgets equipped with certain items of equipment from January 1, 1996 through April 1, 1997, then what was the percentage of the recalled Widgets of all Widgets manufactured during that time period.

II. Identify the Recall Population

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

Vehicles Model	Year	Number of Potentially
<u>Involved</u>		
<u>Gold</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>1</u>
<u>Toyhause</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>4</u>

Total Number Potentially Affected by the Recall: 5

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 beginning and final dates of manufacture of the recalled vehicles:

Dexter Axle provided Purchase order number for the affected axles. All axles have sticker affixed to them noting part number + P.O. numbers. Verified axles on installed units and verified VIN.

III. Describe the Defect or Noncompliance

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

Some axles may have caliper mounting hardware that loosens

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

Insufficient clamp load between caliper & yoke.

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

Insufficient clamp load between caliper and yoke can cause the caliper to disassemble creating a loss of braking ability, which could result in a vehicle crash

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

Reduced braking or no warning

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

Dexter Axle Company
2900 Industrial Parkway East
Elkhart, Indiana 46515

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

Jim Miller Recall Manager

IV. Provide the Chronology in Determining the Defect/Noncompliance

If the recall is for a defect, complete item 6, otherwise 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. June 3, 2006 Letter received from Dexter Axle

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

unknown, following Manufacture's instructions

V. Identify the Remedy

8. A description of the manufacturer's program for remedying the defect or noncompliance. This program shall include a plan for reimbursing an owner or purchaser who incurred costs to obtain a remedy for the problem addressed by the recall within a reasonable time in advance of the manufacturer's notification of owners, purchasers and dealers, in accordance with §573.13 of this part. A manufacturer's plan may incorporate by reference a general reimbursement plan it previously submitted to NHTSA, together with information specific to the individual recall. Information required by §573.13 that is not in a general reimbursement plan shall be submitted in the manufacturer's report to NHTSA under this section. If a manufacturer submits one or more general reimbursement plans, the manufacturer shall update each plan every two years, in accordance with §573.13. The manufacturer's remedy program and reimbursement plans will be available for inspection by the public at NHTSA headquarters.

Dexter Axle has provided the proper hardware for All affected axles. Hardware was replace while on the production line.

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

Please see attached

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

Please see attached

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.

Affected axles were verified using P.O. numbers and visually inspecting axles. Dexter Axle provided the corrected hardware. Production remedy was identical to field repair. All repairs were made during the week of June 5th 2006.

VI. Identify the Recall Schedule

10. 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.

All trailers were still in the production phase and had not gone to Dealers or end users/purchasers.

VII. Furnish Recall Communications

11. 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 (including both original and follow-up) 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 Fax (202-366-7882) for review prior to mailing.*

Note that these documents are to be submitted separately from those provided in accordance with Part 579.5 requirements.



2900 Industrial Parkway East • P.O. Box 250
Elkhart, Indiana 46515
Fax: 574/295-8666 • Phone: 574/295-7888

May 23, 2006

Alpha Leisure, Inc.
5163 "G" Street
Chino, CA 91710

NOTICE OF PRODUCT RECALL 06E-029

Dear Customer:

Dexter Axle has decided that a defect which relates to motor vehicle safety exists in certain disc brake axles produced between February and May, 2006.

The nature of the defect relates to disc brake mounting hardware. Some of the axles built in February through May, 2006 may have caliper mounting hardware that loosens. Insufficient clamp load between caliper and yoke can cause the caliper to disassemble creating a loss of braking ability, which could result in a vehicle crash without warning.

Accordingly, we are entering into a safety recall campaign. The recall campaign will involve the replacement of the caliper mounting hardware at no charge. We have added our invoices with your PO # to facilitate with identifying the suspect axles sent to your. The axles in question have been highlighted.

We have notified NHTSA of the axles supplied to you that are considered suspect. We have received permission from NHTSA to administer the recall campaign on your behalf. However, NHTSA still requires that you notify them directly, fill out a 573 report and receive a unique recall campaign number for your suspect trailers.

NHTSA has allowed us to perform the customer mailing notification and quarterly reporting for you. Their requirement for the mailings is that Dexter must use your company stationary (letter and envelope). I have attached a sample of what we would send to your customers using your letter head.

In order for us to administer the recall amendment on your behalf we will need:

- You to file a 573 report with NHTSA and receive a recall campaign number
- Provide Dexter Axle with your recall campaign number
- Send Dexter Axle the list of affected VIN # and addresses of customers
- Send Dexter Axle enough stationary to send out mailings to your customers

Please contact Jim Miller at 1-800-400-2164 if you have any questions or pertinent information to offer. If your company wishes Dexter Axle to administrate the recall as it affects you, please notify Jim Miller.

Sincerely,

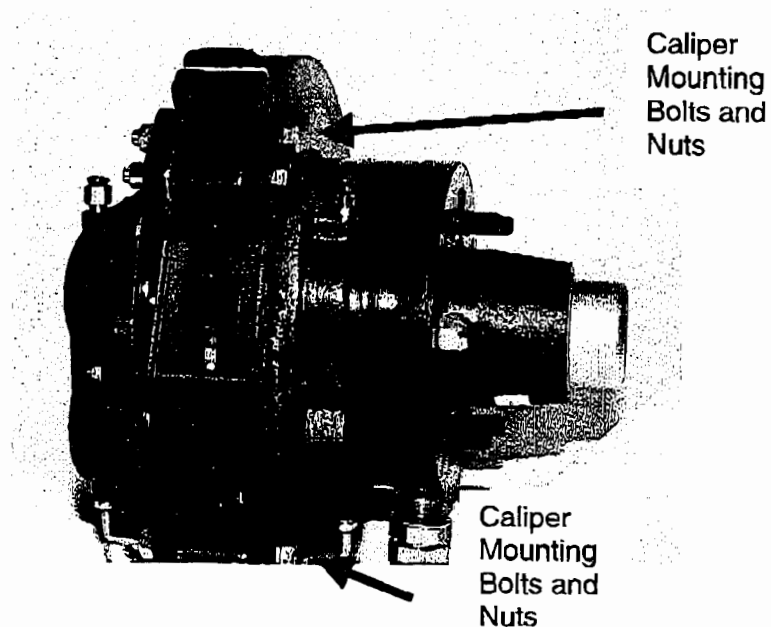
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Vaughn'.

Charles M. Vaughn, Jr.
VP of Technology
Dexter Axle Company

Brake Caliper Repair Instructions

1. Jack up trailer and secure on adequate capacity jack stands. Follow trailer manufactures recommendations for lifting and supporting the unit.
2. Remove the wheel from the hub, leaving the brake exposed.
3. Make sure hydraulic system is not pressurized during the hardware replacement.
4. Replace the four caliper mounting bolts and nuts with new supplied bolts and prevailing torque nuts.

NOTE: The bleeder fitting must be removed in order to replace one of the bolts. Carefully remove the fitting and cover the hole to prevent dirt from entering. After inserting the new bolt, re-install the bleeder fitting. **The system will not need to be re-bled if care is taken to prevent loss of fluid.** If excessive brake fluid is lost, the system should be re-bled according to the attached instructions.



5. Torque all four nuts to 30 lb ft.
6. Remount the wheel. Start wheel nuts by hand to prevent cross threading.
7. Tighten wheel nuts in a "cross pattern" following the manufacturers recommendations for proper torque setting.
8. Spin wheel to ensure proper clearance between the wheel, crossover brake line and the rotor.

Bleeding and Brake Adjustment

1. It typically is much easier to bleed the brakes with two people working together or use of a power-bleeding device.
2. Special care must be taken to insure that the Dexter E/H unit does not run out of brake fluid. Check the fluid level frequently during the bleeding process.
3. Block the wheels on the trailer and towing vehicle.
4. Loosen the bleed screw on the Dexter E/H unit and install plastic tubing onto the bleeder.
5. Immerse the free end of the plastic tubing in a clean container partially filled with brake fluid.
6. With eye protection on, open the bleeder screw one half turn on the Dexter E/H unit. Take care to protect you and the trailer from brake fluid expelled from the bleeder.
7. Activate the Dexter E/H unit by turning on the ignition switch and pressing on the brake pedal or the manual control on the in-cab controller.
8. Watch the free end of the bleeder hose for air bubbles escaping into the container.
9. Continue to bleed until the fluid becomes clear and free of bubbles.
10. Tighten the bleeder screw, turn off the Dexter E/H unit, and remove the plastic tubing from the bleeder screw. Bleeding of the actuator is now complete.
11. Install plastic tubing onto the bleeder screw of the wheel cylinder/caliper.
12. Immerse the free end of the plastic tube in a clean container partially filled with brake fluid.
13. Open the bleeder screw one half turn on the wheel cylinder/caliper farthest from the Dexter E/H unit. If towed vehicle has multiple axles, always start with the rear axle first.
14. To activate the Dexter E/H unit, turn the ignition switch on and press on the brake pedal.
15. Watch the free end of the bleeder hose for air bubbles escaping into the clear container. Continue to bleed the wheel cylinder/caliper until the fluid becomes clear and free of bubbles.

CAUTION

Do not run the Dexter E/H actuator without adequate brake fluid in the reservoir as it will damage the unit and void the warranty. Check all bleeder screws to ensure that they are securely closed and do not leak.

16. Tighten the bleeder screw, turn off the Dexter E/H unit, and remove plastic tubing from the bleeder screw. Bleeding of the wheel cylinder/caliper is now complete.
17. Refill the Dexter E/H unit with brake fluid.
18. Continue the above process (steps 11 through 17) on the next farthest brake away from the actuator.
19. Repeat these steps until all the brakes have been bled.
20. New trailers with disc brakes should be bled at least twice and then a third time after a few hundred miles use. Any air in the brake system will cause brake delay with an E/H system.