

PART 573 Defect and Noncompliance Report3

On October 11, 2006, EarthRoamer decided that a defect which relates to motor vehicle safety exits 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.

Date this report was prepared: October 16, 2006

Furnish the manufacturer's identification code for this recall (if applicable): ER-SB-0008

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. EarthRoamer.com, LLC

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

Bill Swails, Chief Designer and COO

Telephone Number: 720-304-3174

Fax No.: 720-304-7568

Name and Title of Person who prepared this report. Bill Swails, Chief Designer and COO

Signed: 

1. 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),

Make and model: EarthRoamer XV-LT

Model Years Involved: 2003-2006

Model: Production Dates:

Beginning: January 2004

Ending: March 2006

This recall affects 2003-2006 EarthRoamer XV-LTs with Front Camper Mount Assembly revision B or C. Revision B or C mounts are limited to EarthRoamer XV-LT Unit Numbers: 1, 2, 3, 6, 7, 9, 10, 11, 13, 14, 18, 20, 22, 25, 26, 27 and 28

II. Identify the Recall Population

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

2003 1

2004 3

2005 9

2006 4

Total Number Potentially Affected by the Recall: 17

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

We believe that 6 of the 17 vehicles recalled (35%) will actually contain 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 vehicles:

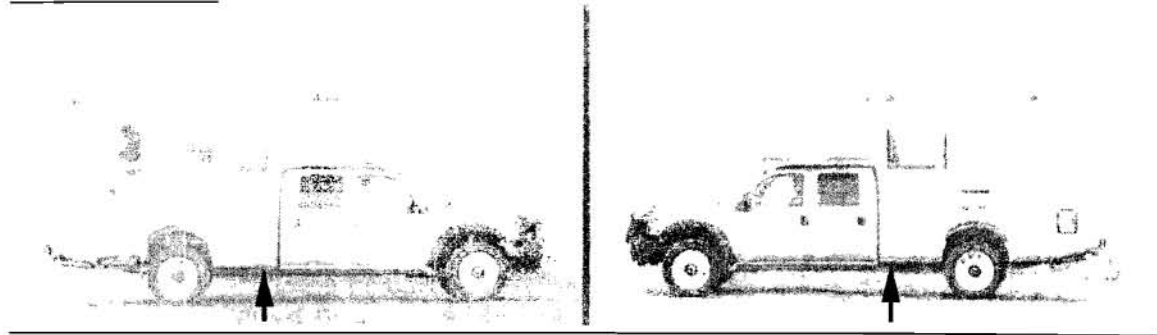
The recalled population was determined based on the design revision of the affected mount. Engineering analysis confirmed that mount revisions B and C were susceptible to fatigue weld cracks.

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.

1. The front camper mount can be viewed by sliding under the camper, just aft of the cab of the truck.



2. The area to be inspected is located between the truck frame and fiberglass camper body fairing.

The welds that attach the frame plate to the camper mount need to be visually inspected for any signs of cracking. The photos in Attachment A show the front mount assembly prior to installation of the camper body to clearly illustrate each of the weld locations. There is also a photo included of an actual mount on a completed vehicle.

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

The weld strength is insufficient to carry the loads on the camper mount.

Describe the consequence(s) of the defect. Identify any warning which can (a) precede or (b) occur.

Over time cracks may develop in the camper mount welds eventually resulting in broken welds. Small hairline cracks serve as a visual indicator that the weld is compromised.

IV. Provide the Chronology in Determining the Defect

In March of 2006 an EarthRoamer XV-LT was damaged when the driver accidentally drove off the roadway. When the vehicle returned to our shop for other repairs, we discovered broken welds on the front camper mount (in addition to other damage to suspension components). We believed the cause of the broken welds was a direct result of the vehicle being subjected to abnormal forces associated with inadvertently driving the vehicle off of the roadway.

On September 26th, we were notified by an EarthRoamer XV-LT customer that he had discovered cracked welds on his front camper mount. We did not believe that this EarthRoamer XV-LT had been subjected to any unusual use. We immediately issued a Customer Service Bulletin, and contacted owners by phone instructing them to inspect their XV-LTs. Four additional customers reported cracked welds on EarthRoamer XV-LTs and we determined that there was a defect in our design.

V. Identify the Remedy

8. Furnish a description of the manufacturer's remedy for the defect. Clearly describe the differences between the recall condition and the remedy. Clearly describe the distinguishing characteristics of the remedy component/assembly versus the recalled component/assembly. 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.

Revision B and C camper mounts that are subject to weld cracking are being replaced with a redesigned camper mount. The redesigned camper mount has thicker frame plates, is welded with continuous welds, and is welded on both sides of the vertical plates. The production remedy is the same as the field remedy. This remedy was implemented in production beginning with unit #29.

VI. Identify the 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.

We do not have dealers and all mount replacements will be done at our facility. We are contacting each affected customer directly and are working with them to schedule replacement as soon as possible. Each customer will be scheduled for a replacement mount as soon as the customer schedule permits them to return the vehicle to our facility.

VII. Furnish 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 (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 573.8 requirements.

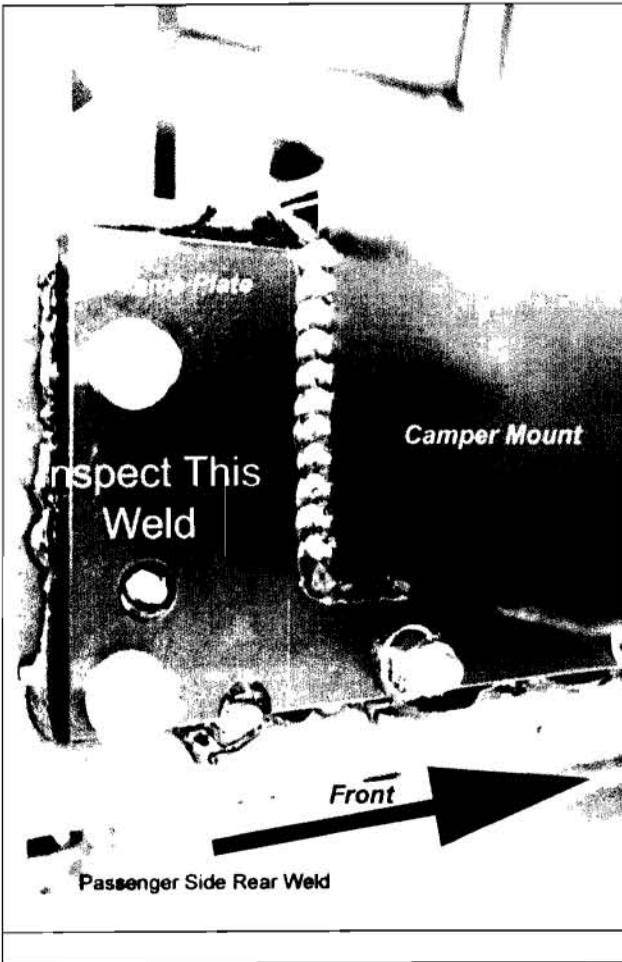
Each manufacturer must furnish a report, to the Associate Administrator for Safety Assurance, for each defect or noncompliance condition which relates to motor vehicle safety. This guide was developed from 49 CFR Part 573, "Defect and Noncompliance Reports" and also outlines information currently requested. Any questions, please consult the complete Part 573 or contact Mr. Jon White at (202) 366-5226 or by FAX at (202) 366-7882.

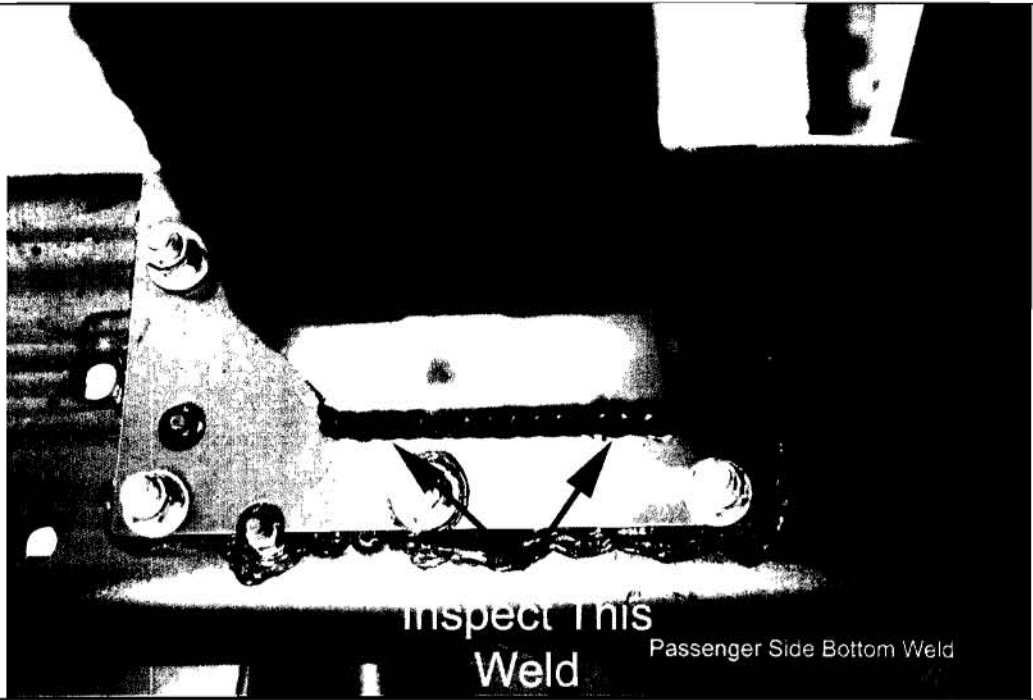
See ATTACHMENT B (Initial Customer Service Bulletin) and
ATTACHMENT C (Proposed Recall Notice)

ATTACHMENT A

Passenger Side

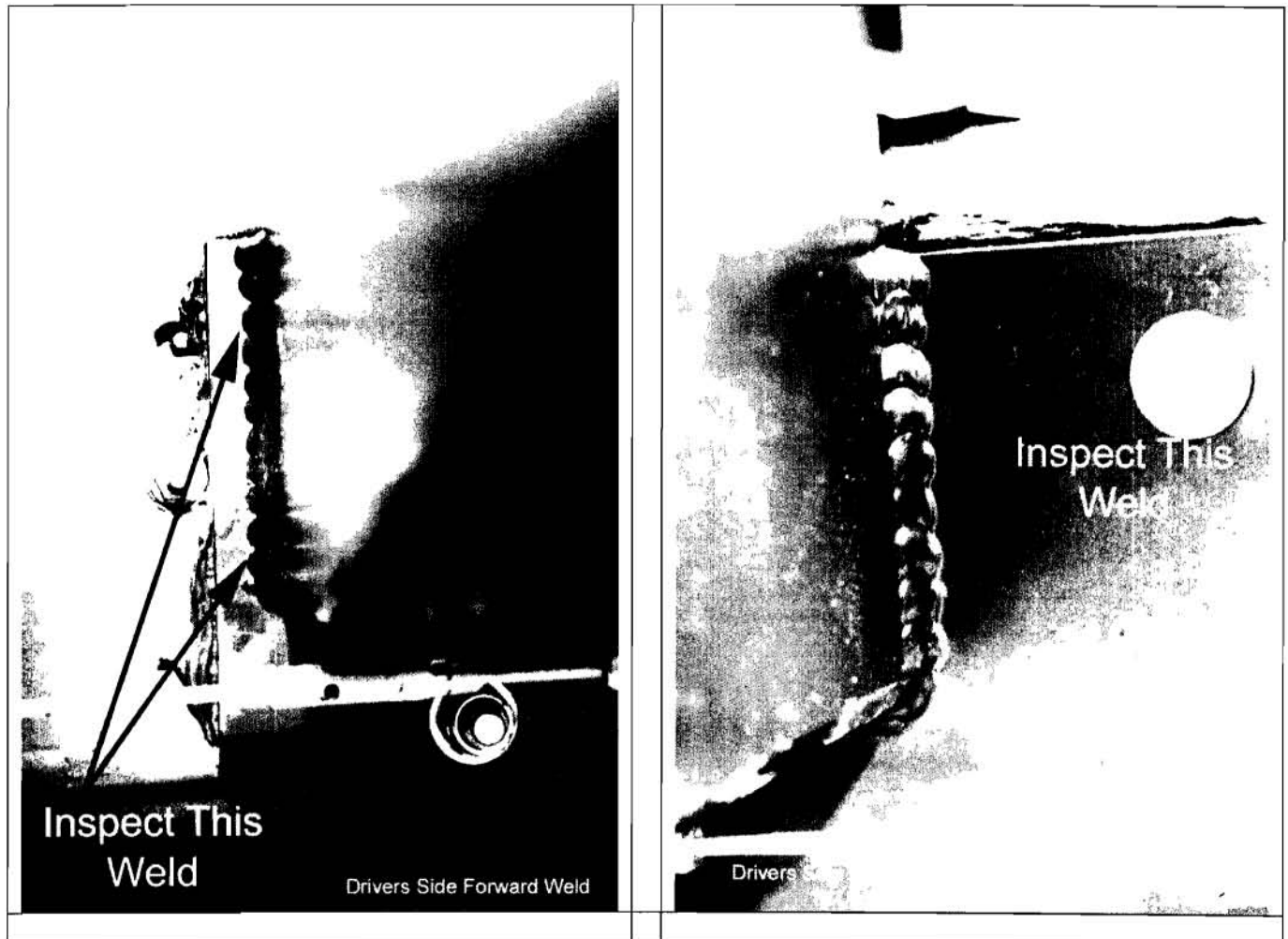
Camper mount before camper has been installed. These photos show revision D mounts with a continuous weld bead. Your mounts will be stitch welded.

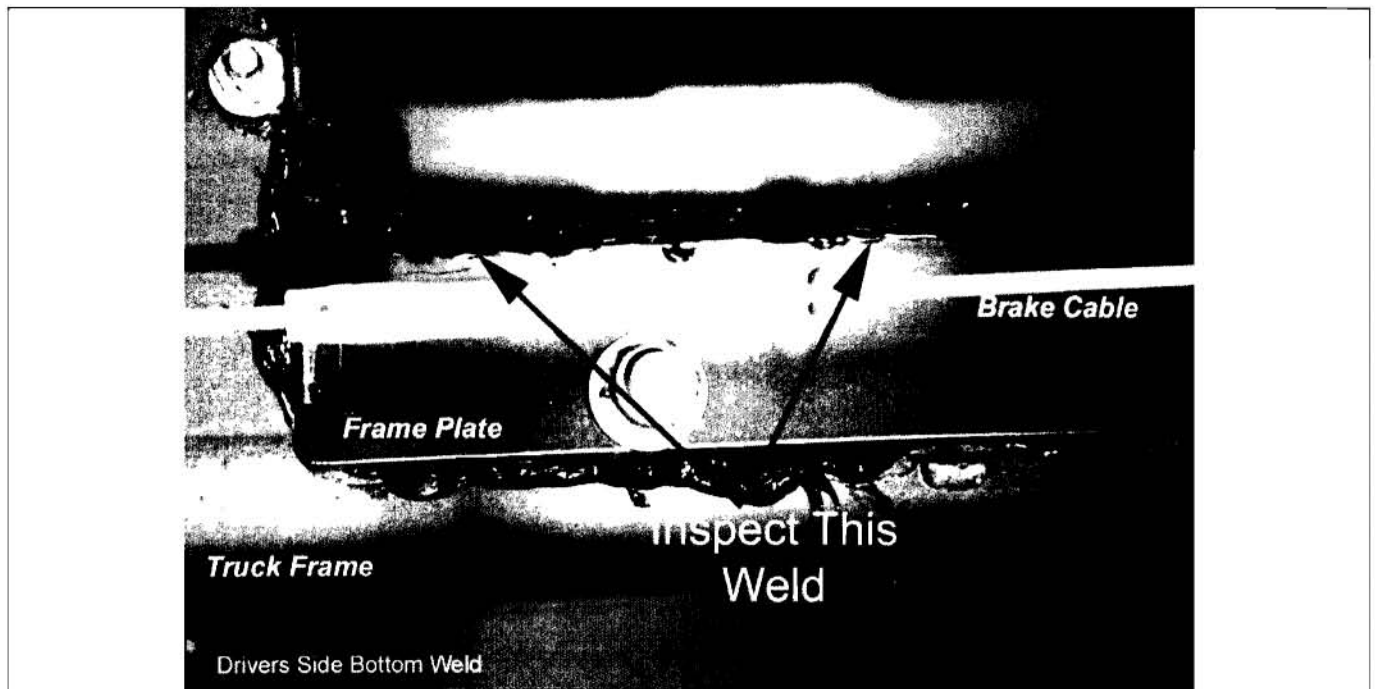




Driver Side

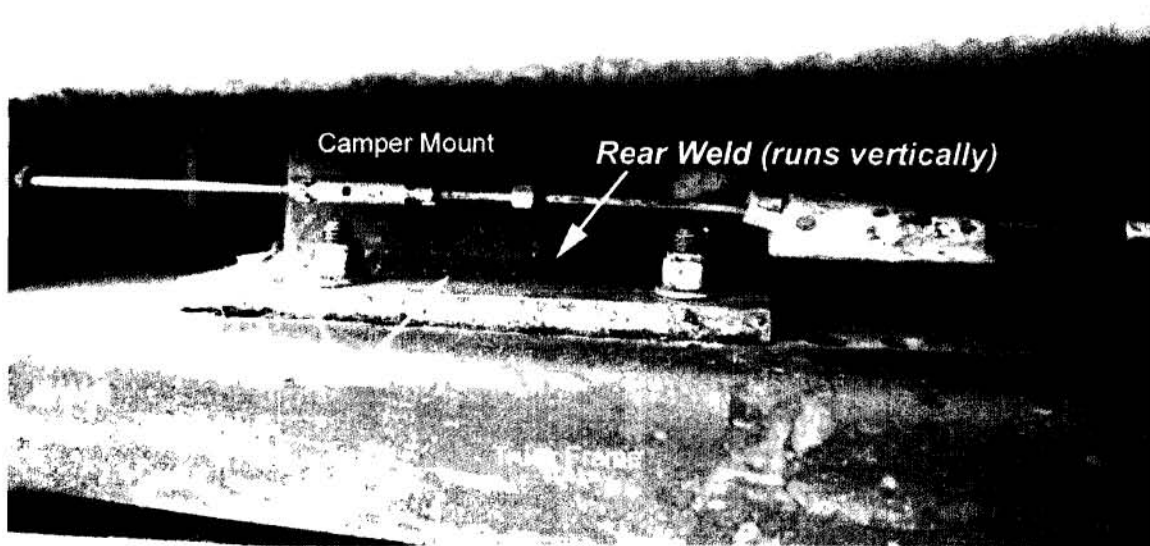
Camper mount before camper has been installed. These photos show revision D mounts with a continuous weld bead. Your mounts will be stitch welded.





Camper mount after camper has been installed

Driver Side - View Looking Up



Attachment B



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SERVICE BULLETIN

Subject: Required Front Camper Mount Inspection and Replacement	Bulletin No: 0008 rev A
	Issued: 09/27/2006

APPLICABLE MODELS

2004-2006 EarthRoamer XV-LT with Front Camper Mount Assembly, revisions B or C

DESCRIPTION

An EarthRoamer owner recently discovered and notified EarthRoamer of cracked welds on the front camper mount assembly of his EarthRoamer. The camper mount is still intact, but the cracks are a clear indicator of an overstress situation which could lead to a failure of the camper mounting system, potentially resulting in an accident.

If you have received this notification, we believe your vehicle may be susceptible to cracking welds.

CORRECTIVE ACTION

Do not drive your vehicle on any trips or rough roads until your front camper mounts have been adequately inspected and it is determined that no cracked welds exist. It is recommended that you have the nearest competent weld shop perform this inspection.

1. The front camper mount can be viewed by sliding under the camper, just aft of the cab of the truck.



2. The area to be inspected is located between the truck frame and fiberglass camper body fairing.
3. The welds that attach the frame plate to the camper mount need to be visually inspected for any signs of cracking. Clean the area as needed to provide clear viewing of the area of concern. There are a total of 6 locations that need to be inspected (three on the passenger side mount and three on the drivers side mount). The photos below show the front mount assembly prior to installation of the camper body to clearly illustrate each of the weld locations. There is also a photo included of an actual mount on a completed vehicle to more clearly represent at what you will be looking.



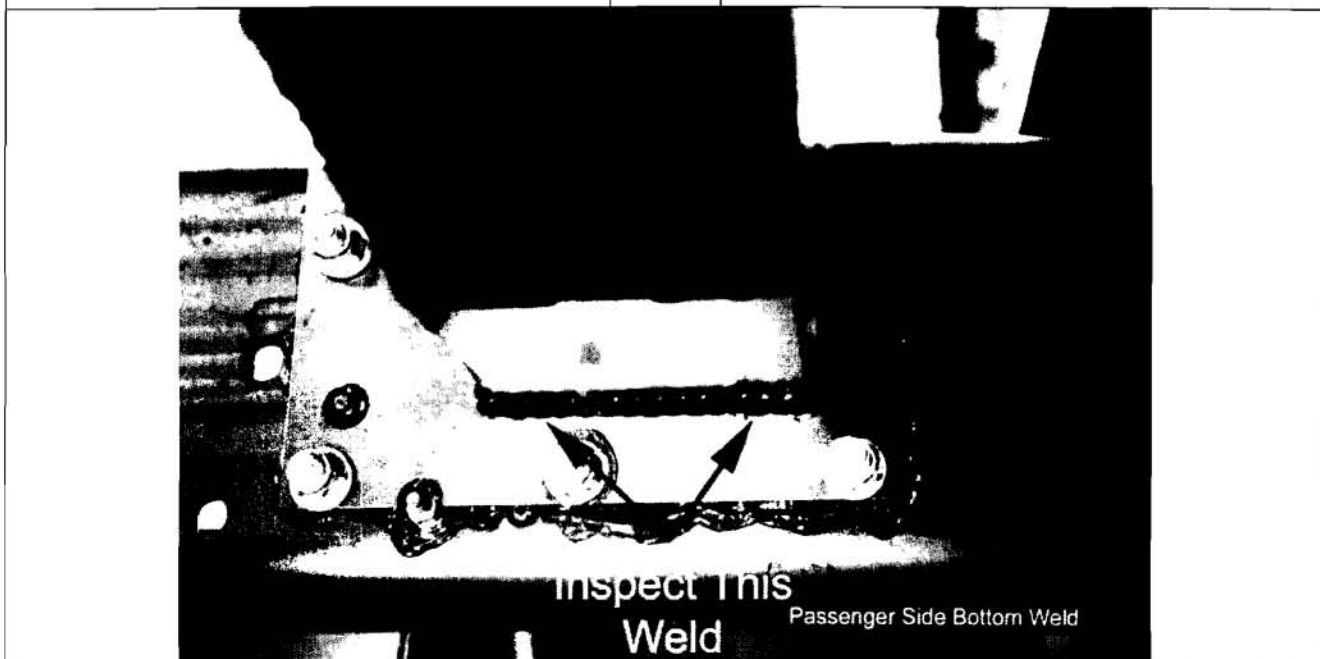
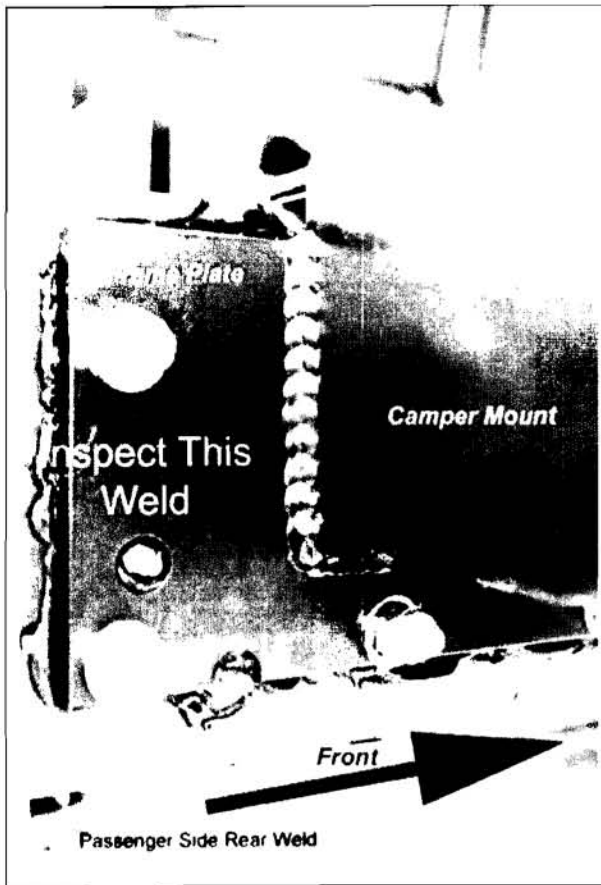
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4. Alert us immediately with the results of your inspection.
5. If you find any cracked welds, we advise that you do not drive your vehicle any further before consulting EarthRoamer. If possible, please take digital photos of any suspected cracks and email them to bill@earthroamer.com. Call Bill (303-881-4498), Michele (303-887-8261) or Matt (303-929-1306) for effective resolution of your situation.

All revision B or C front camper mounts will need to be replaced with revision D mounts as soon as feasibly possible to ensure driver safety. Each circumstance will be addressed and the repair method handled individually.

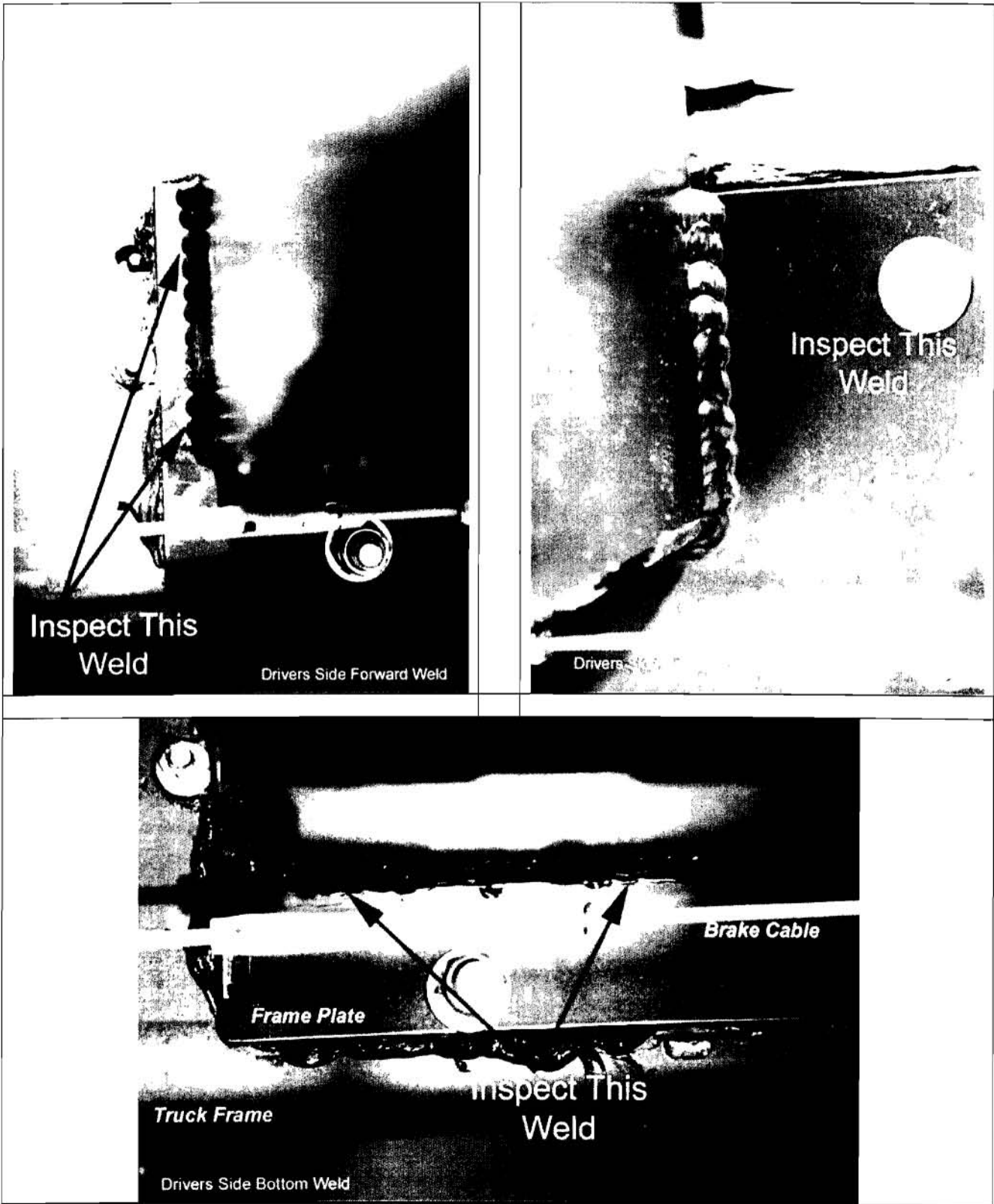
Passenger Side

Camper mount before camper has been installed. These photos show revision D mounts with a continuous weld bead. Your mounts will be stitch welded.



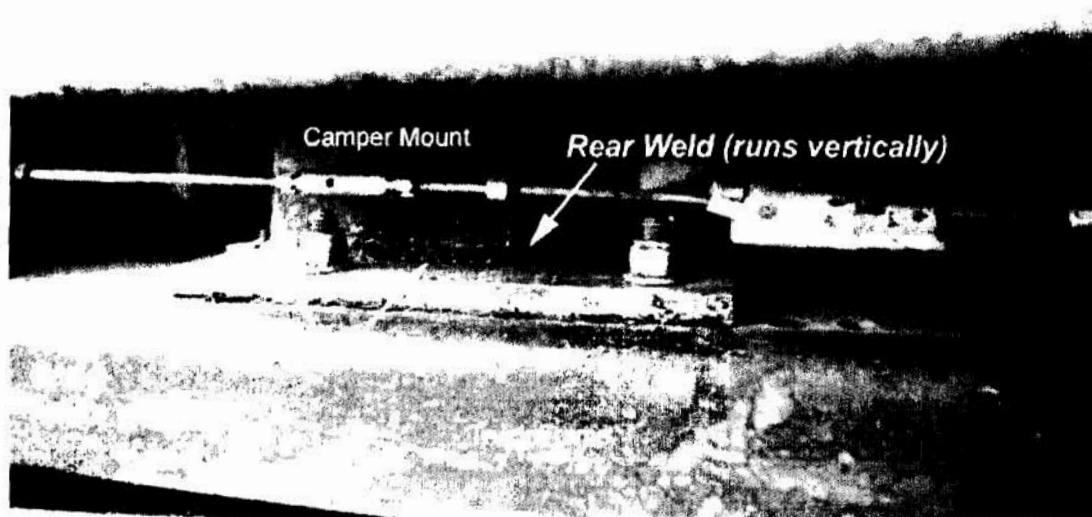
Driver Side

Camper mount before camper has been installed. These photos show revision D mounts with a continuous weld bead. Your mounts will be stitch welded.



Camper mount after camper has been installed

Driver Side - View Looking Up



Attachment C



EARTHROAMER™

SAFETY RECALL CAMPER MOUNT REPLACEMENT

Subject: SAFETY RECALL Required Front Camper Mount Inspection and Replacement	Bulletin No: 0008 rev B
	Issued: 10/11/2006

SAFETY RECALL – CAMPER MOUNT REPLACEMENT

This notice is sent to you in accordance with the requirements of the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act.

REASON FOR THIS RECALL

EarthRoamer has determined that a defect which relates to motor vehicle safety exists in certain 2003-2006 EarthRoamer XV-LT with Front Camper Mount Assembly revisions B or C.

DESCRIPTION

EarthRoamer has determined that welds on the front camper mounts on 2003-2006 EarthRoamer XV-LT with Front Camper Mount Assembly revisions B or C can develop cracks. These cracks are an indicator of an overstress situation which could lead to a failure of the camper mounting system, potentially resulting in an accident.

If you have received this notification, your vehicle is affected by this recall.

CORRECTIVE ACTION

Please contact EarthRoamer as soon as possible to make arrangement for inspection and Front Camper Mount replacement. The labor time necessary to perform this service correction is approximately 1 day.

Do not drive your vehicle on any trips or rough roads until your front camper mounts have been adequately inspected and it is determined that no cracked welds exist. It is recommended that you have the nearest competent weld shop perform this inspection. EarthRoamer will assist you in finding a weld shop to perform this inspection if you need assistance.

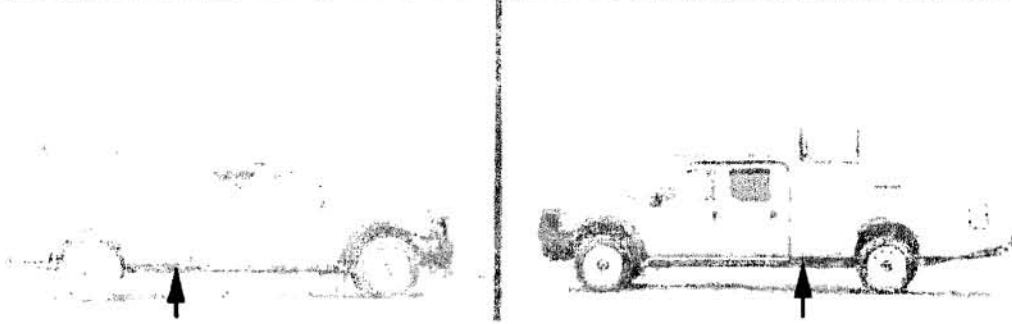
After contacting EarthRoamer, if you are still not able to have the safety defect remedied without charge and within a reasonable time, you may wish to write the Administer, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 400 Seventh Street, SW, Washington, DC 20590 or call 1-888-DASH-2-DOT (1-888-327-4236). (Washington DC residents use 1-202- 366-0123). We are sorry to cause this inconvenience; however, we have taken this action in the interest of your safety and continued satisfaction with our products.



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Camper Mount Inspection Procedure

1. The front camper mount can be viewed by sliding under the camper, just aft of the cab of the truck.

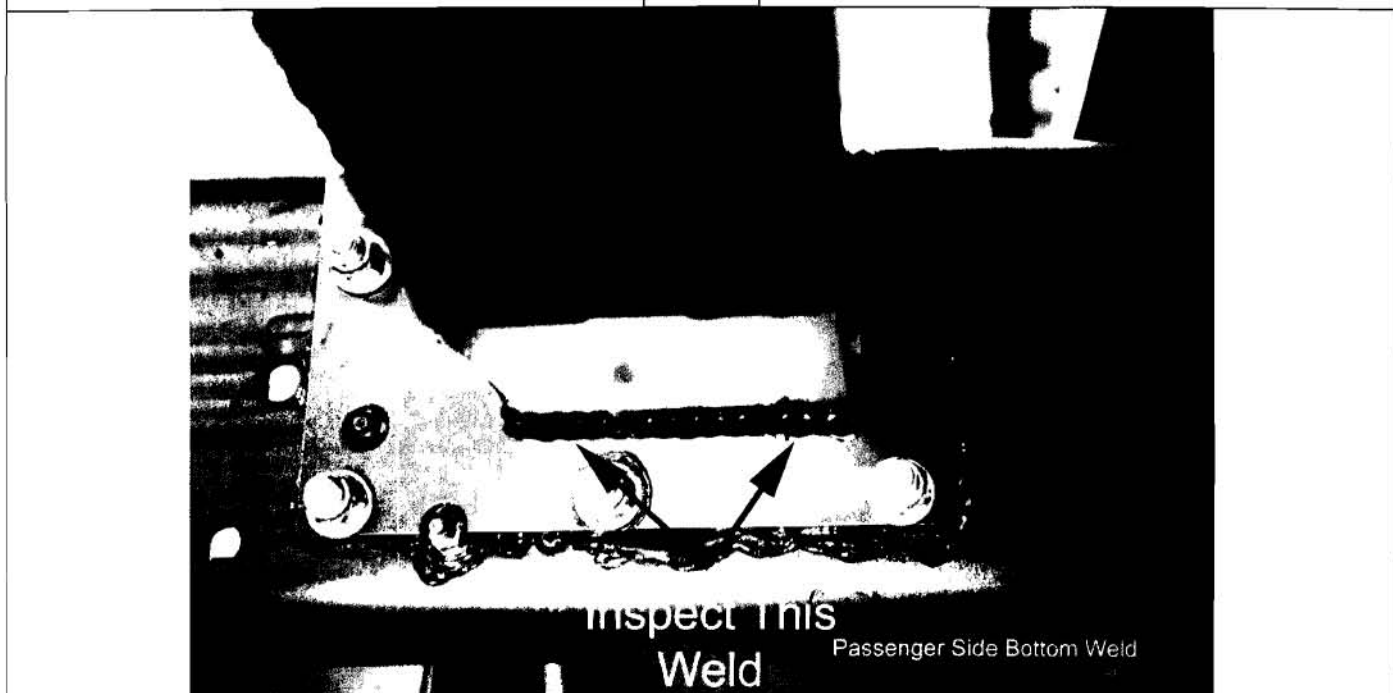
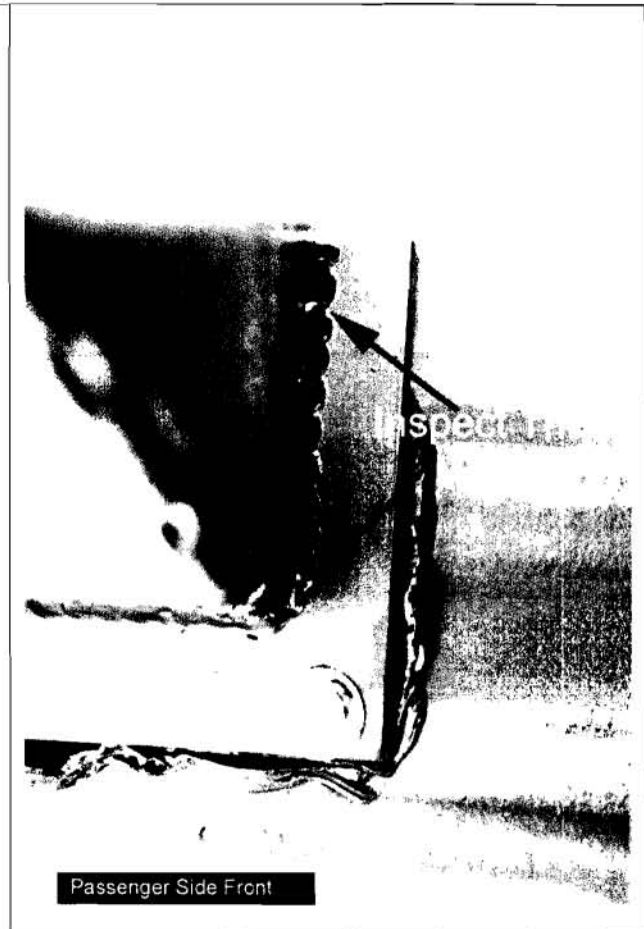
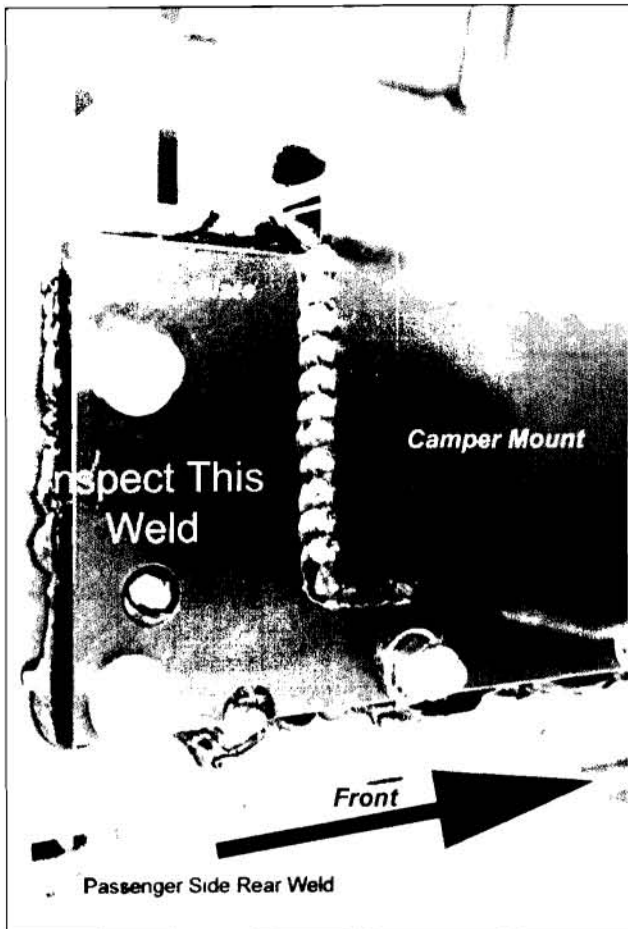


2. The area to be inspected is located between the truck frame and fiberglass camper body fairing.
3. The welds that attach the frame plate to the camper mount need to be visually inspected for any signs of cracking. Clean the area as needed to provide clear viewing of the area of concern. There are a total of 6 locations that need to be inspected (three on the passenger side mount and three on the drivers side mount). The photos below show the front mount assembly prior to installation of the camper body to clearly illustrate each of the weld locations. There is also a photo included of an actual mount on a completed vehicle to more clearly represent at what you will be looking.
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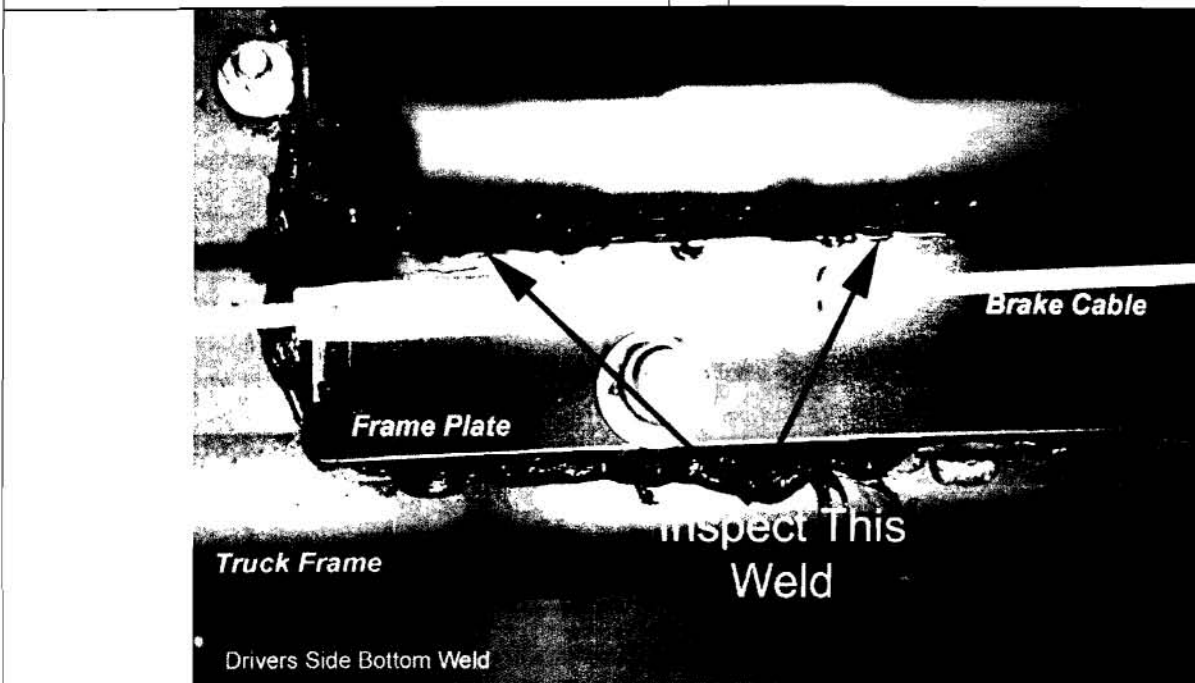
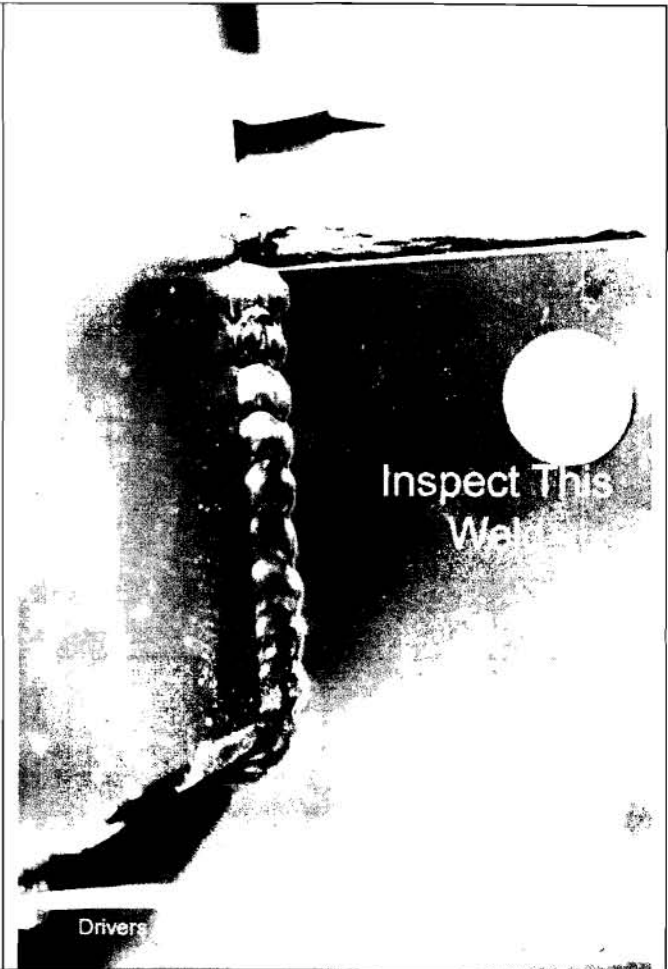
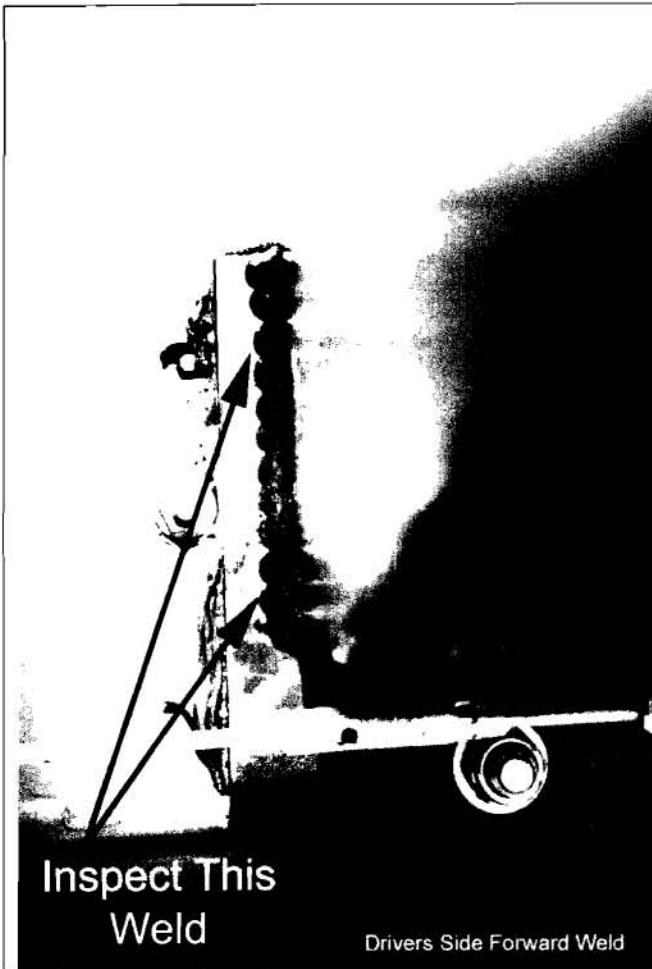
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Driver Side - View Looking Up

