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OFFICE OF THE  
SECRETARY

Daniel C. Smith, Esquire  
Associate Administrator for Enforcement  
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
Office of Defects Investigation (NSA -11)  
400 7th Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20590

06V-497  
(2 pages)

Re: Defect Information Report Submitted  
In Accordance with 49 CFR Part 573

Dear Mr. Smith,

Utilimaster Corp is submitting this defect information report in accordance with the requirements of 49 CFR Part 573.6.

**(1) Manufacturer**

Utilimaster Corporation  
65906 State Road 19  
P.O. Box 585  
Wakarusa, IN 46573

**(2) Identification of Subject Vehicles**

Utilimaster's Aeromaster line of walk-in delivery vans, (built on various chassis), equipped with Draw-Tite Modulite HD (P/N 18190) trailer light modules purchased from Cequent Towing Products. The subject vehicles were manufactured from February 2005 through October 2006.

**(3) Total Number of Vehicles Potentially Containing Defect**

There are 95 total vehicles affected, sold to the Customers listed on the attached sheet.

**(4) Percentage of Vehicles Estimated to Contain Defect**

Unknown

**(5) Description of Defect**

The trailer light modules installed on these walk-in vans recombine split tail light circuits. The module integrates the brake signals into the turn signals. Under certain operating conditions, the module may overheat and ignite. The defect is internal to the module. Utilimaster is aware of one fire caused by this condition. No property damage or personal injury was incurred. Utilimaster has also received two reports involving heat-induced discoloration of the wire insulation.



(6) **Chronology of Events**

In late-August, 2006, a customer notified Utilimaster that a trailer light module failed on one of its vehicles produced during the subject production period. The failed module was returned to Utilimaster for testing and evaluation. Based upon testing and evaluation conducted by Utilimaster and Cequent, Utilimaster decided on December 18th, 2006 to conduct a safety recall.

(7) **Description of Remedy**

Utilimaster will remove the trailer light module and wire the taillight harness from the body directly to the trailer plug. This remedy will be provided free of charge.

Utilimaster has been working with its customers with respect to this issue, and has already begun the process of repairing the subject vehicles. We are estimating that all trucks will be remedied by December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2006.

Utilimaster will forward a draft customer letter to NHTSA in the next several days, and is prepared to send out the customer letter immediately after clearance by NHTSA/ODI. In order to expedite this campaign, Utilimaster also intends to contact each of the affected owners by telephone.

(8) **Reimbursement Program Exemption**

Pursuant to 49 CFR Part 577.11(e), Utilimaster requests that it be exempted from providing notification of a reimbursement plan. All of the affected vehicles are covered by the manufacturer's warranty. Accordingly, no person would be eligible for reimbursement pursuant to Part 573.13.

Please notify the undersigned of the campaign number assigned to this recall by the agency.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'DeRay Steffenserr', written over a horizontal line.

DeRay Steffenserr  
Director, Quality Assurance, Reliability, Warranty  
Utilimaster Corp