



June 26, 2006

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

RE: NHTSA Campaign Number 06V-206
Stratos and Champion Boat Trailers

Attention:

Attached are examples of documents that were sent to Champion dealers last week. Please note that the documents for Stratos dealers were identical except references to Champion were replaced with Stratos.

If you have any questions, please contact me at 612/337-1859.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Jeffery E. Melby", is written over a horizontal line.

Jeffery E. Melby
Vice President, Environmental and Safety

Cc: Jason Bragg – Stratos and Champion Boats

RECEIVED
2006 JUL -9 A 8:30
OFFICE OF DEFECTS
INVESTIGATION

612.339.7600 Fax 612.337.1950

2900 IDS Center
80 South Eighth Street
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402-2100



June 2006

RE: Safety Recall Campaign for Retractable Tongue Trailers

Dear Dealer,

We are currently undergoing a Safety Recall Campaign concerning our trailers that have the retractable tongues with brakes. It is very important to Champion Boats that you review the list of boats and trailers that we show that your dealership has sold with this feature. We are taking every effort to contact each one of your customers about the Safety Recall Campaign in progress and how it affects their trailer. We ask that you too attempt to contact your customers and ask them to bring their trailer into your dealership for inspection. If your customer lives closer to a different Champion dealer, and the customer finds it to be more convenient, we ask that you encourage them to take their trailer there for it's inspection.

We have provided the serial number to both the boat and trailer, along with the customer's name and his/her phone number. Any areas that are blank may be a result of the boat being in your inventory or the boat has not been properly registered. It may be necessary for you to check your records of the boat in question in order to locate the current owner and his/her information. In the event that a boat has not been properly registered, we asked that the registration form, or a copy of the Bill of Sale, immediately be sent to Champion Boats by fax at 615-494-2056.

We will be emailing you a "PDF" file that will contain all the information regarding the inspection and if needed, repairs to be made. Should you, or any member of your staff, have any questions, or simply need assistance, please feel free to contact your Customer Service Representative. We look forward to your assistance, and working with you in this matter.

Sincerely Yours,

Jason Bragg
Customer Service Manager
Champion Boats Inc
615-494-2090 Ph
jason.bragg@championboats.com

CHAMPION BOATS

880 Butler Road
Murfreesboro, TN 37127
Customer Service Telephone: 615/494-2084

Final inspection and, if required, installation of a repair bracket on retractable trailer tongue

June 2006

ATTENTION CHAMPION DEALERS:

Champion Boats, in accordance with the requirements of the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act, is conducting a voluntary safety recall campaign to inspect and repair, if necessary, retractable trailer tongues on Champion trailers manufactured in model years 2003, 2004, 2005, and 2006.

The lower part of the steel frame insert on the retractable tongue may not have been inserted into the brake actuator housing the proper distance before the parts were welded together. The attached pictures show a properly built retractable tongue and one with a gap between the bottom insert and the brake actuator housing. If the tongue was not manufactured to the required specifications (gap), the bottom of the top insert could crack in the area of the gap. If the insert cracks while the trailer is connected to a vehicle, the weight of the boat can cause the tongue to buckle and contact the road surface.

Champion is conducting a safety recall campaign to inspect the trailers, and repair the retractable tongue if it was not manufactured according to specifications. Please review the attached information.

Trailers shipped to you are identified in an attached list. On trailers that have been warranty registered, customers are being notified of this voluntary campaign, and have been instructed how to inspect the retractable trailer tongues. Owners have been instructed to contact Champion dealers if a gap is observed so that final inspection can be performed by you, and if required, the repair can be completed. If so, installation of the bracket will be performed at no cost to the trailer owner. Champion is allotting 0.5 hours at your current labor rate for inspection, repair, and submittal of the form. If no repair is required, Champion is allotting 0.25 hours for the inspection and submittal of the form. The customer must sign a verification form prior to submittal to Champion. A copy of the verification form was sent to the owners. A blank copy is also included with this package.

As always, we appreciate your cooperation.

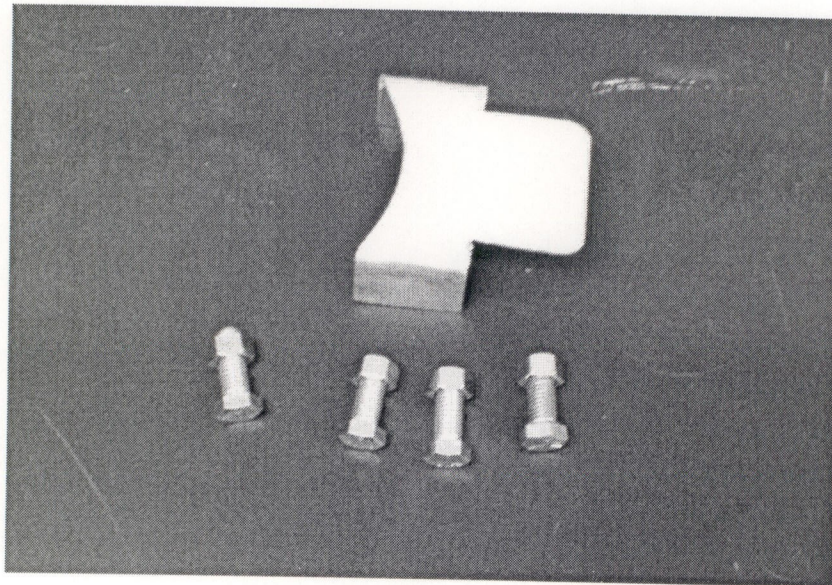
Champion Trailers Repair Procedure

Tools Needed:

- 3/8" or larger drill motor
- Pilot drill bit
- 3/8" drill bit
- 9/16" wrench (angled)
- 9/16" socket and driver
- Clamp (not absolutely necessary)

Materials Needed:

- Repair kit consisting of 1 bracket, 4 ea 3/8" x 1" Grade 5 bolts and 4 ea 3/8" Nylok nuts.



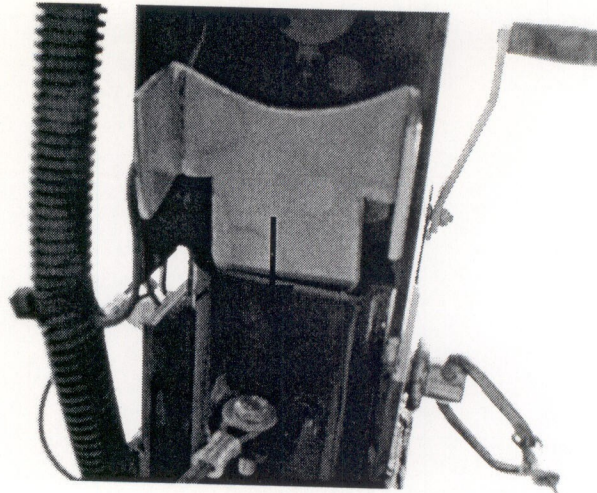
STEP 1:

Using the jack-stand, raise the trailer as high as it will go. A 6" block under the jack-stand will make the repair easier. Be sure to block the trailer tires to prevent the trailer from rolling off the block.



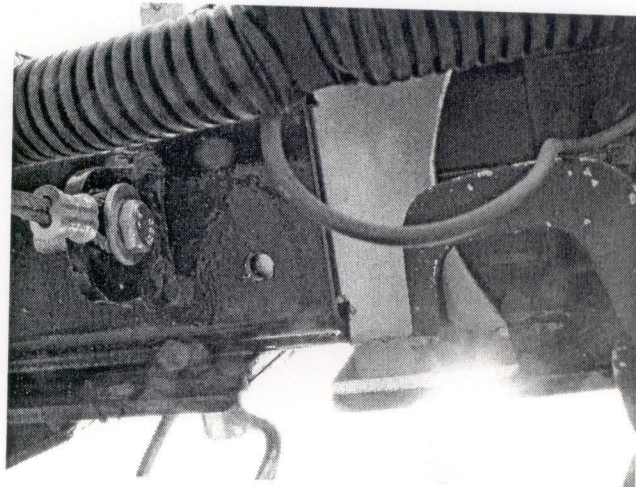
STEP 2:

Lying directly under the repair area, the bracket will slide into the trailer tongue directly under the brake line. It will slide towards the rear of the trailer until the long tab is no longer visible.



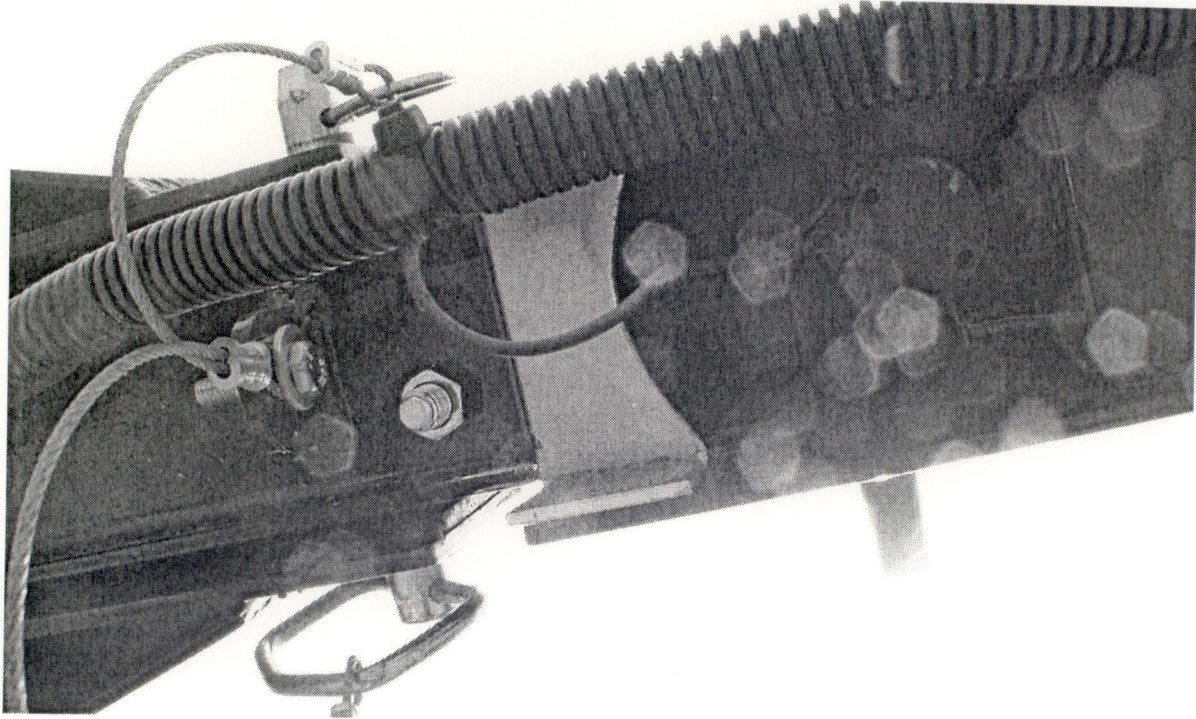
Step 3:

Using the pilot drill bit drill a hole 1" back from the edge of the tongue and $\frac{1}{2}$ " out from the centerline of the tongue. Make sure you are clear of the brake line. Fully insert the repair bracket and, using the pilot drill, mark the bracket where the hole is.



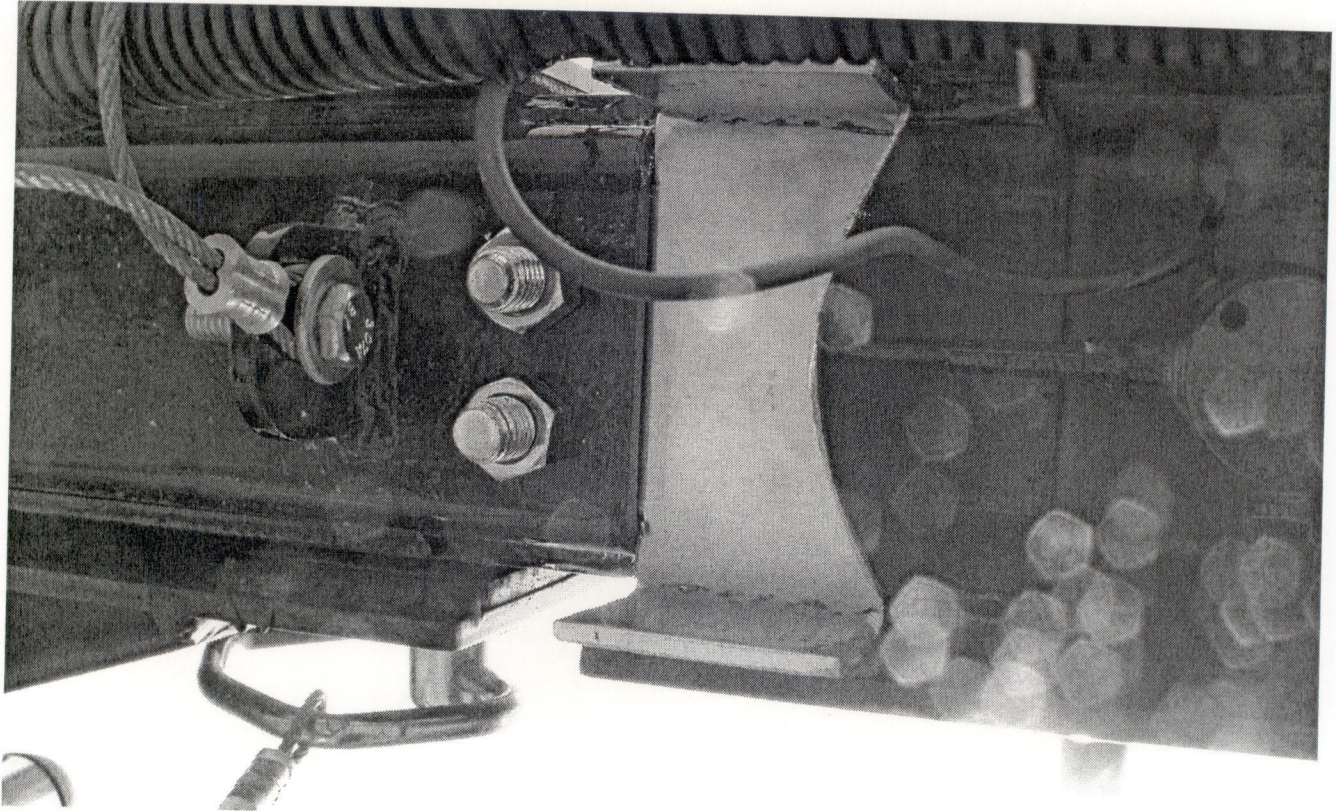
STEP 4:

Remove the bracket from the trailer tongue. Using the 3/8" drill bit drill the hole in the trailer tongue to 3/8" and drill a hole in the bracket where it was just marked to 3/8". Re-insert the bracket into the trailer tongue.



STEP 5:

Insert one of the 3/8" bolts from inside the trailer tongue so that it goes through both the bracket and the trailer tongue. Using a bent 9/16" wrench reach up inside the trailer tongue and put it over the head of the bolt. Install a Nylok nut on the bolt and tighten.

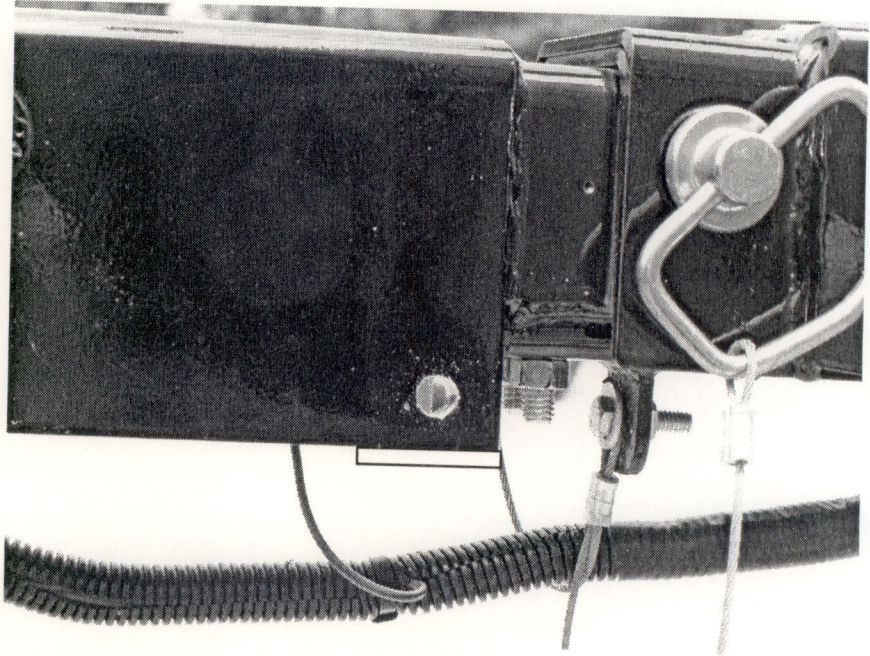


STEP 6:

After the first bolt is installed and tightened use the pilot drill bit and drill a second hole 1" over from the first hole. This hole will go through both the trailer tongue and the bracket. Drill this hole to 3/8". Make sure that the drill does not damage the brake line. Install a second 3/8" bolt and nut and securely tighten. This completes the work under the trailer.

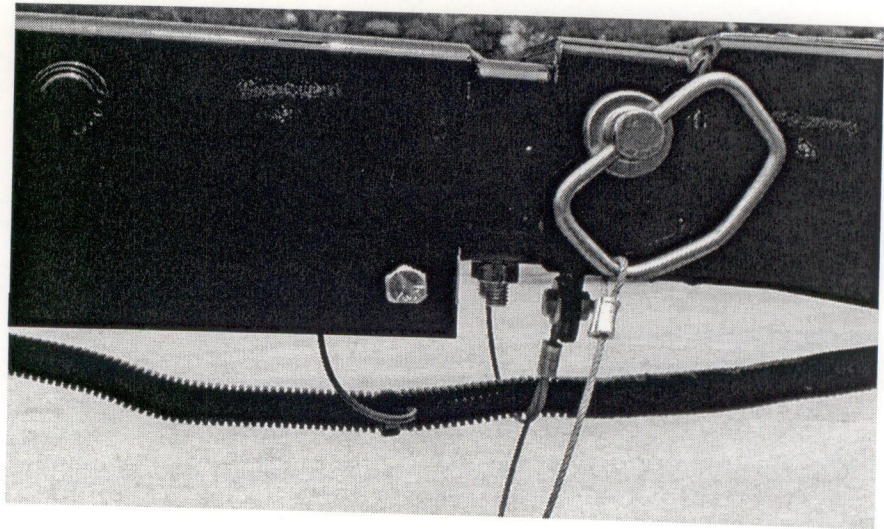
STEP 7:

Using the pilot drill drill a hole thru the tongue and bracket as shown. It will be $\frac{3}{4}$ " back from the edge and $\frac{5}{8}$ " up from the bottom edge. Do this on both sides of the trailer tongue.



STEP 8:

Drill both sides of the trailer to $\frac{3}{8}$ " and insert the remaining bolts through the holes. Install a Nylok nut on the bolts and tighten securely.



This completes the repair procedure. Before lowering the trailer make sure that all bolts are tightened. The picture on the next page shows a completed installation.

