



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration**

JUL 16 2007

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

MR. NOEL ROBERTS
DIRECTOR OF QUALITY
THULE, INC.
42 SILVERMINE ROAD
SEYMOUR, CT 06483

NVS-215kjs
07E-047

Subject: HITCH STYLE BIKE RACKS

Dear MR. ROBERTS:

This letter is to acknowledge your recent defect information report. Please review the following information to ensure that it conforms to your records as this information is being made available to the public. If the information does not agree with your records, please contact us immediately to discuss your concerns.

Makes/Models/Model Years:

THULE > EXPRESSWAY > 9999
THULE > HITCHING POST PRO > 9999
THULE > TRAILBLAZER > 9999

NHTSA Campaign Number: 07E-047

Mfg's Report Date: June 29, 2007

Components: EQUIPMENT

Potential Number of Units Affected: REQUESTING CONFIDENTIALITY ON POPULATION

Summary:

CERTAIN AFTERMARKET THULE HITCH STYLE BICYCLE RACKS WITH FOLD DOWN STYLE BIKE ARMS. A PINCH BOLT EXISTS BETWEEN THE BIKE ARM BRACKET AND THE UPRIGHT ASSEMBLY OF THE HITCH STYLE BICYCLE RACK.

Consequence:

WHEN MOVING THE BIKE ARM BRACKET TO ITS DOWN POSITION, THIS PINCH POINT HAS THE POTENTIAL OF CAUSING A SEVERE LACERATION OR AMPUTATION TO THE USER'S FINGERTIPS OR HAND.

Remedy:

THULE WILL NOTIFY OWNERS AND PROVIDE A REPAIR KIT AND INSTRUCTIONS FREE OF CHARGE. THE RECALL IS EXPECTED TO BEGIN DURING JULY 2007. OWNERS CAN CONTACT THULE AT 800-THULE91 (800-848-5391).

Notes:

CUSTOMERS MAY CONTACT THE NATIONAL HIGHWAY TRAFFIC SAFETY ADMINISTRATION'S VEHICLE SAFETY HOTLINE AT 1-888-327-4236 (TTY: 1-800-424-9153); OR GO TO [HTTP://WWW.SAFERCAR.GOV](http://WWW.SAFERCAR.GOV).

The information in your defect report appears to satisfy the requirements of 49 CFR 573.6 except for the following items:

You are required to submit a draft owner notification letter to this office no less than five days prior to mailing it to the customers. Also, copies of all notices, bulletins, dealer notifications, and other communications that relate to this recall, including a copy of the final owner notification letter and any subsequent owner follow-up notification letter(s), are required to be submitted to this office no later than 5 days after they are originally sent (if they are sent to more than one manufacturer, distributor, dealer, or purchaser/owner).

As stated in Part 573.7, submission of the first of six consecutive quarterly status reports is required within one month after the close of the calendar quarter in which notification to purchasers occurs. Therefore, the first quarterly report will be due on or before 30 days after close of the calendar quarter.

Your contact for this recall will be Kelly Schuler, who may be reached by phone at 202-366-5227 or by email at KSCHULER@NHTSA.DOT.GOV.

Sincerely,

Patricia A. Wallace

for George H. Person
Chief, Recall Management Division
Office of Defects Investigation
Enforcement

Cc: Mr. Mark Schnitzler
Wilson, Elser, Moskowitz, Edelman & Dicker LLP
177 Broad Street, 6th Floor
Stamford, CT 06901