



U.S. Department
of Transportation
**National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration**

1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

December 14, 2007

MR. JEFF TERRY
VICE PRESIDENT, PRODUCT
PLANNING & RELIABILITY
FONTAINE MODIFICATION CO.
9827 MT. HOLLY ROAD
CHARLOTTE, NC 28207

NVS-215paw
07V-543

Subject: TRACK ROD BRACKET/REYCO

Dear MR. TERRY:

This letter serves to acknowledge Fontaine Modification Company's notification to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) of a safety defect in the products described below, for which a safety recall campaign shall be conducted pursuant to 49 U.S.C. § 30119.

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:

FORD/F450 CLASSIC TRAVELER/1998-2006
FORD/F550 CLASSIC TRAVELER/1998-2006

NHTSA Campaign Number: 07V-543

Mfg's Report Date: November 13, 2007

Components: STRUCTURE: FRAME AND MEMBERS

Potential Number of Units Affected: 293

Summary:

ON CERTAIN PICKUP TRUCKS EQUIPPED WITH REYCO GRANNING MODEL 345P AIR RIDE SUSPENSIONS, THE BRACKET SUPPORTING THE HORIZONTAL TRACK ROD AT THE FRAME ATTACHMENT CAN BECOME LOOSE AND EVENTUALLY CRACK AND BREAK.

Consequence:

THIS CONDITION COULD CAUSE THE TRACK ROD TO BE INEFFECTIVE IN MAINTAINING LATERAL CONTROL BETWEEN THE AXLE AND FRAME RESULTING IN VEHICLE HANDLING PROBLEMS INCREASING THE RISK OF A CRASH.

Remedy:

DEALERS WILL INSPECT THE BRACKET AND NUT/BOLT HARDWARE. IF THE BOLTS ARE LOOSE OR THE BRACKET HAS CRACKED, THE BOLTS, NUTS, AND BRACKETS WILL BE REPLACED. IF THE BOLTS ARE INSTALLED CORRECTLY AND ARE TIGHT, THEY WILL BE REMOVED AND REPLACED WITH NEW BOLTS AND LOCKTITE. THE RECALL IS EXPECTED TO BEGIN ON OR ABOUT DECEMBER 14, 2007. OWNERS MAY CONTACT FONTAINE AT 1-704-409-1605. THIS RECALL HAS NO RELATION TO ANY ORIGINAL EQUIPMENT INSTALLED ON FORD F450 AND F550 PICKUP TRUCKS MANUFACTURED BY FORD MOTOR COMPANY.

Notes:

CUSTOMERS MAY ALSO 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.

Please provide the following additional information and be reminded of the following requirements:

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 the close of the calendar quarter.

Your contacts for this recall will be Pat Wallace or Delia Lopez, who may be reached by phone at 202-366-5232 or 202-366-9525 or by email at Patricia.wallace@dot.gov, Delia.lopez@dot.gov, or through the office email at RMD.ODI@dot.gov. We look forward to working with you for successful completion of this recall campaign.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "G. Person". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "G" and a long, sweeping underline.

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