



Hopkins Mfg. Corp.
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FAX MEMORANDUM

Date: June 25, 2007

To: Daniel C. Smith
Associate Administrator for Enforcement
Attn: Recall Management Division (NVS-215)
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC, 20590
Fax 202-366-7882



From: Gary Kaminski
Hopkins Manufacturing Corp
428 Peyton
Emporia, KS 66801-1157

Subject: Aftermarket Automotive Equipment Recall

I have attached form O.M.B. No. 2127-0004 in order to begin the Recall process for one of our products. This is initial information and is incomplete due to the investigation not yet being finished. We will be following through with the additional required forms and information as soon as it can be defined.

Please let us know the proper contact for us to correspond with on this matter.

Thank you

CC: Jack Rice, Arent Fox LLP
Christopher Grigorian, Arent Fox LLP

7 **Pages Total**

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DEFECTS INVESTIGATION
RECALL MGMT DIV.

Safety Defect and Noncompliance Report Guide for Equipment
PART 573 Defect and Noncompliance Report¹

On June 18, 2007, Hopkins Manufacturing Corporation decided that a defect which relates to motor vehicle safety exits in items of motor vehicle equipment 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: June 19, 2007

Furnish the manufacturer's identification code for this recall (if applicable): NA

1. Identify the full corporate name of the fabricating manufacturer/brand name/trademark owner of the recalled item of equipment. If the recalled item of equipment is imported, provide the name and mailing address of the designated agent as prescribed by 49 U.S.C. §30164.

Hopkins Manufacturing Corporation

428 Peyton PO Box 1157

Emporia, KS 66801-1157

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

Bradley Kraft

President

Telephone Number: 620-342-7320

Fax No.: 620-340-8501

Name and Title of Person who prepared this report.

Gary Kaminski

Engineering Director

Signed: 

¹Each 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.

I. Identify the Recalled Items of Equipment

2. Identify the Items of Equipment Involved in this Recall, for each make and model or applicable item of equipment product line (provide illustrations or photographs as necessary to describe the item of equipment), provide:

Generic name of the item: Trailer brake control connection harness

Make: TAP and Hopkins **Model:** NA

Part Number: Catalog numbers 47625, 47635, 37625, 37635 **Size:** NA

Internal part numbers within Hopkins Manufacturing are:

1010476025	1010476035
1040376025	1040376035
1110476025	1110476035
1170376025	1170376035
1290376025	1290376035

Function:

Other information which characterizes/distinguishes the items of equipment to be recalled:

This harness is inserted between the vehicle plug and a trailer brake controller sold by Hopkins. This harness only fits certain models of Nissan vehicles

Make: _____ **Model:**

Part Number: _____ **Size:**

Function:

Other information which characterizes/distinguishes the items of equipment to be recalled:

Make: _____ **Model:**

Part Number: _____ **Size:**

Function:

Model Years Involved:

Other information which characterizes/distinguishes the items of equipment to be recalled:

Identify the approximate percentage of the production of all the recalled models manufactured by your company between the inclusive dates of manufacture provided above, that the recalled model population represents. For example, if the recall involved Widgets equipped with certain items of equipment from January 1, 1996, through April 1, 1997, then what was the percentage of the recalled Widgets of all Widgets manufactured during that time period.

100% of the date range will be recalled when the date range is determined

II. Identifying the Recall Population

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

Model	Year	Number of Items Potentially Involved
<u>In process of being determined but the total number of connector harnesses is believed to be less than 3500 pieces.</u>		

Total Number Potentially Affected by the Recall: TBD

4. Furnish the approximate percentage of the total number of items of equipment estimated to actually contain the defect or noncompliance: Initial information indicates high actual defect rate, possibly approaching 100%

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 items of equipment: In process of being determined. The current assumption is that all harnesses produced are suspect and that all harnesses produced will be recalled.

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.

A wire was placed in an incorrect position in the electrical connector housing. This results in an incorrect routing of wires between the trailer brake controller and the towing vehicle wiring system.

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

The wire was placed in the wrong position in the electrical connector.

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

This harness would result in power from the trailer brake controller going to the towing vehicle dash light circuit rather than the trailer brakes. The result would be lack of trailer braking when the towing vehicle brakes were applied. It would also result in the towing vehicles dash lights being activated when the vehicle brakes were applied. The failure of the application of the trailer brake could result in the inability to stop and a resulting crash.

Identify any warning which can (a) precede or (b) occur.

Harness instructions state "Wire brake control by function only" and "To insure proper installation, read brakes control instructions thoroughly". Erratic lighting of the dash lighting would occur when the vehicle brake pedal was pushed. Installer would not be able to get a trailer brake activation signal at the trailer socket. Operator would not be able to adjust trailer braking intensity as is recommended when initially connecting the towing vehicle to the trailer.

If the defect or noncompliance is in a component or assembly purchased from a supplier, identify the supplier by corporate name and address.

Identify the name and title of the chief executive officer or knowledgeable representative of the supplier:

IV. Provide the Chronology in Determining the Defect/Noncompliance

If the recall is for a defect, complete item 6, otherwise item 7.

6. With respect to a defect, furnish a chronological summary (including dates) of all the principle events that were the basis for the determination of the defect. The summary should include, but not be limited to, the number of reports, accidents, injuries, fatalities, and warranty claims.

7. With respect to a noncompliance, identify and provide the test results or other data (in chronological order and including dates) on which the noncompliance was determined.

There are no known accidents, injuries, or fatalities related to this defect. Investigation is continuing, but to this point some information has been established.

6/7/07 -One customer complaint received that use of Hopkins wire harness resulted in no trailer brake power but rather erratic lighting of vehicle dash lights

6/15/07- Hopkins confirms that a wire is incorrectly placed on at least some harnesses.

6/18/07 -All internal inventory isolated and actions started isolate field inventory

V. Identify the Remedy

8. Furnish a description of the manufacturer's remedy for the defect or noncompliance. Clearly describe the differences between the recall condition and the remedy.

The remedy is to replace all original harnesses with revised harnesses. A harness consists of 4 wires approximately 12” in length, a vehicle compatible electrical connector, and either cut wires or a trailer brake controller compatible electrical connector.

Clearly describe the distinguishing characteristics of the remedy component/assembly versus the recalled component/assembly.

The original harness had the blue wire in the #3 position (next to the black wire) with the #2 position vacant. The revised harness has the blue with in the #2 position (next to the white wire) with the #3 position vacant with a label indicating it has been inspected.

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.

Production was halted on 6/15/07 during investigation. Correction is in process and will be achieved prior to resuming production approximately 6/20/07. The production remedy is moving the blue wire to the correct position.

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.

Due to the preliminary nature of this document, specific recall plans and procedures have not been finalized at this time.

VII. Furnish Recall Communications

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*

Documents will be provided as required prior to being sent out.

Note: These documents are to be submitted separately from those provided in accordance with Part 573.8 requirements.

The Privacy Act of 1974 - Public Law 93-579, As Amended: This information is requested pursuant to the authority vested in the National Highway Traffic Safety Act and subsequent amendments. You are under no obligation to respond to this questionnaire. Your response maybe used to assist the NHTSA in determining whether a manufacturer should take appropriate action to correct a safety defect. If the NHTSA proceeds with administration enforcement or litigation against a manufacturer, your response, or statistical summary thereof, may be used in support of the agency's action.