



4-Star Trailers, Inc.

10000 N.W. 10th St. • Oklahoma City, OK 73127

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DEFECTS INVESTIGATION
RECALL MGMT DIV.

07V-396
(8 Pages)

Part 573 Defect Report

On June 25, 2007, 4-Star Trailers, Inc. 10000 N. W. 10th Street, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73127, telephone 405-324-7827 (4-Star) determined that a defect which relates to motor vehicle safety exists in certain aluminum horse trailers and accessories, as 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: July 26, 2007

1. The full corporate name of the fabricating manufacturer of the vehicle and accessory's being recalled is 4-Star Trailers, Inc.

The corporate official whom the agency should contact with respect to this recall is Randy McArthur, whose telephone number is: (405) 324-7827, ex. 140, and whose fax number is (405) 324-7625.

This report was prepared by Randy McArthur.


Randy McArthur

2. Vehicles and components involved in the Recall:

The vehicles which are the subject of this recall are 4-Star trailers with factory mounted hayracks, beginning with manufacture on January 16, 2003 and continuing through June 26, 2007 and hayrack assemblies manufactured during the same period sent to dealers as an after-market accessory. A hayrack is a topless aluminum box-like frame that has either a slotted or solid floor with rail sides and mounted on top of a horse trailer to provide storage, generally used for hay, but for any item which will fit within the confines of the frame. These "hayracks" were mounted on top of only those trailers ordered with such accessory, and hayrack assemblies sold separately. Of the trailers on which the hayracks were mounted, and of the hayrack assemblies sold separately, all have suspect inadequate mountings which could come un-attached over the life of the trailer. Other 4-Star trailers are not affected.

3. The total number of vehicles produced with the hayracks as a factory mounted accessory with inadequate mountings is 752, with 296 assemblies sold separately to dealers.
4. The approximate percentage of the total number of vehicles estimated to actually contain the defect, and the hayrack assemblies sold separately, is 100 percent.

Since potentially all hayrack mountings are defective, all trailers manufactured with hayrack mountings and all hayrack assemblies sold separately, should be recalled. Hayracks were only mounted on trailers beginning with manufacturing on January 1, 2003 and continuing until the determination was made that a potential defect existed, June 26, 2007 with hayrack assemblies being manufactured and sold separately during the same period.

5. The defect is best described as being an insufficient number of "huck" bolts securing the hayrack to the roof mounting bracket. The hayrack is a boxed aluminum frame, used for storage "usually hay" for trailer owners, mounted on top of their horse trailer. A mounting bracket is secured to the roof of the trailer using a bolt and nut securing system, which is not suspect. The mounting bracket is "L" shaped, with the horizontal side being longer and thinner than the vertical leg, which is shorter and thicker. The longer, thinner side of the bracket is affixed to the roof of the trailer in such a manner that the other side of the bracket extends vertically from the roof of the trailer. The hayrack is then attached to this vertical "leg", using huck bolts. A huck bolt is a self-securing fastener that penetrates the lower portion of the hayrack, with no securing nut on the inside of the hayrack.

4-Star determined that the requisite numbers of huck bolts were possibly not used to attach the hayrack to the mounting bracket, thus creating a potential defect.

If the requisite number of huck bolts or other fasteners is not used to secure the hayrack to the mounting bracket, the hayrack could come lose and disconnect from the mounting bracket, resulting in the hayrack falling off of the top of the trailer.

Warnings are in 4-Star's owners manual to check all components of the trailer before each trip; however these is no specific warning to check the integrity of the mounting of the hayrack to the roof bracket.

The hayrack and the mounting assembly are all manufactured by 4-Star.

6. The chronology of events that lead to the determination that a potential defect exists began with the receipt of notification on May 7, 2007 from a 4-Star dealer, that one of his customers reported losing a hayrack from his trailer. The customer reported to the dealer that he was driving down the road and was flagged down by the car behind him informing him that he had lost the hayrack, the customer pulled around and left the hayrack on the side of the road, there have been no reports of any property damage nor personal injury. The customer is to send photo's of the top of the trailer reporting that the mounting brackets are still attached to the trailers top rail (we have received such photos). 4-Star began an internal investigation to determine just how a hayrack, whose empty weight could be as much as 75 pounds and filled weight, could be an additional 1,000 pounds, could come loose and fall off a trailer. Upon examining production practices, it was learned that at some time after the initial manufacture of the hayrack accessory in early 2003, line personnel apparently began using an insufficient number of huck bolts to secure the hayrack to the mounting bracket. This final determination that the numbers of huck bolts being used in the manufacturing process were insufficient was made June 25, 2007.
7. Not used.
8. To remedy this inadequacy, 4-Star proposes to supply to the customer and to 4-Star dealers, a retro-mounting kit, containing four (4) 3/8" hex head bolts x 2" long, four (4) 3/8" heavy hex self-locking nuts and, eight (8) 3/8" flat washers. The customer may, at the customer's election, take the trailer to a local 4-Star dealer or any local trailer repair facility, as they see fit. The repair consists of drilling a 3/8" diameter hole through the hayrack side panel and the mounting bracket of the hayrack. Assemble one (1) washer onto the bolt and push through the hole from the outside. Place first a washer then the nut on the other end of the bolt on the inside of the underside of the hayrack, and tighten until snug. Repeat this process until two (2) bolts, one front and one rear; secure each side of the hayrack to the mounting bracket. These additional mounting fasteners will secure the hayrack to the mounting bracket, sufficiently to prevent loss. No change should be made to the existing huck bolts.

Beginning with June 25, 2007, production of the hayrack has been altered to assure that the requisite numbers of 3/8" stainless steel bolts are now being used to secure the hayrack to the mounting bracket. The integrity of the attachment of the mounting bracket to the trailer is not an issue.

The recall shall begin immediately upon receipt of approval from NHTSA of 4-Star's proposed customer notification letter and dealer notification letter. Within three (3) business days of receipt of approval, 4-Star shall begin sending notice letters to the customers who purchased a trailer with the hayrack accessory, to the last known address of such customers. Letters to dealers will also be sent at the same time. 752 were sold with the hayrack accessory, and 296 were manufactured as an after-market item sold separately. 4-Star has only 21 dealers to be contacted.

Sent with the notice letter shall be the retro-mounting kit, which will go to customers and dealers alike. As with any item of personal property that does not require licensing in all 50 states, there is no way to track transfers of trailers from the original purchaser. 4-Star will send notices, postage prepaid, certified, return receipt requested, to attempt to assure that the first purchasers receive the notice and retro-mounting kit, with the request that if such purchaser no longer owns the subject trailer, they will so notify 4-Star so that the notice can be sent to the new owner. 4-Star has no ability to track transfers where licensing is not required.

9. Attached hereto are copies of the proposed notice to owners, and notice to dealers. Also attached are photographs of a hayrack, a hayrack mounted on a trailer, a hayrack mounting bracket, and the hayrack secured to the mounting bracket with the retro-fit bolts.

NHTSA Campaign Number: To be determined by NHTSA

Dealer 4-Star Trailer Owner;

This **Notice** is sent to you in accordance with the requirements of the National Highway Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act.

REASON FOR THIS RECALL

4-Star Trailers, Inc. (4-Star) has decided that a defect which relates to motor vehicle safety exists in certain trailers equipped with covered hayracks manufactured from January 16, 2003 through June 26, 2007, and with hayrack assemblies manufactured and sold separately during the same period. Specifically, the fasteners securing the hayrack to the roof mounting bracket may fail, allowing the hayrack to separate from the trailer. This could pose a serious hazard to yourself and others.

Your trailer, identified with this Owner Notification Letter is affected. For this reason we ask that you arrange for service to correct the condition without delay. The service and required parts as described in this letter, will be provided free of charge.

WHAT YOU SHOULD DO

To correct this condition, your dealer or repair shop will need to install new fasteners (enclosed herein) securing the hayrack to the mounting bracket on the roof of the trailer.

This repair will take about one (1) hour to complete. Additional time may be required depending on how appointments are scheduled and processed. To obtain this free service:

Contact your 4-Star dealer as soon as possible to schedule an appointment for the free service.

Or,

Take the repair kit included with this letter, to a repair shop of your choice to have the retro-mounting kit installed.

In either case, take this Owner Notification Letter with you at the time of your appointment and present it to your service provider. The letter identifies the vehicle and required service. If you take your vehicle to a repair shop other than a 4-Star Dealer, for a complete refund, send the invoice for the service charge by mail to: Randy McArthur, 4-Star Trailers, Inc., 10000 N.W. 10th Street, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73127, or via FAX to (405) 324-7625. If you take your vehicle to your dealer on the agreed service date, and they do not remedy this condition on that date or within three (3) days, we

recommend you contact 4-Star Warranty Department at 1-800-848-3095. A 4-Star representative will arrange for prompt attention to your trailer.

After contacting your dealer and 4-Star, if you are still not able to have the safety defect remedied without charge and within a reasonable time, you may wish to write the Administer, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 400 Seventh Street, SW, Washington DC 20590; or call the toll free Vehicle Safety Hotline at 1-888-327-4236 (TTY: (1-800-424-9153); or go to <http://www.safercar.gov>."

We are sorry to cause this inconvenience; however, we have taken this action in the interest of your safety and continued satisfaction with our products.

4-Star Trailers, Inc.

By:



Randy McArthur
Sales/Warranty Manager

NHTSA Campaign Number: (To be determined by NHTSA)

To: ALL 4-STAR TRAILERS, INC., DEALERS

The National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act, as amended, provides that each vehicle which is subject to a recall campaign of this type must be adequately repaired within a reasonable time after the owner has tendered it for repair. Failure to repair within sixty (60) days after tender of a vehicle is prima facie evidence of failure to repair within a reasonable time.

If the condition is not adequately repaired within a reasonable time, the owner may be entitled to an identical or reasonable equivalent vehicle at no charge or to a refund of the purchase price less a reasonable allowance for depreciation.

To avoid having to provide these burdensome solutions, every effort must be made to promptly schedule an appointment with each owner and to repair their vehicle as soon as possible. As you will see in reading the attached copy of the letter that is being sent to owners, the owners are being instructed to contact 4-Star Customer Service if their dealer does not remedy the condition within three(3) days of the mutually agreed upon service date. If the condition is not remedied within a reasonable time, they are instructed on how to contact the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

DEFECT INVOLVED

4-Star has determined that a defect which relates to motor vehicle safety exists in certain aluminum horse trailers with hayracks mounted on the top of the trailer, and hayrack assemblies sold separately. These vehicles and assemblies have been determined to have a defect in the fasteners which attach the hayrack to the mounting bracket on top of the trailers. It may be that an inadequate number of huck bolts (fasteners) were used to secure the hayrack to the mounting bracket. Should there be an inadequate number of fasteners to secure the hayrack to the mounting bracket, the fasteners could fail, allowing the hayrack to become detached from the mounting bracket and fall from the top of the trailer.

To remedy this defect, 4-Star is sending to your customers that are involved in this safety re-call a retro-mounting kit containing four (4) 3/8" hex head bolts x 2" long, four (4) 3/8" heavy hex self locking nuts, and eight (8) 3/8" flat washers. One kit should be used for each trailer to be retrofitted. The repair consists of drilling a 3/8" diameter hole through the hayrack mounting bracket and the side panel of the hayrack. Assemble one (1) washer onto the bolt and push through the hole from the outside. Place first a washer then the nut on the end of the bolt on the inside of the hayrack; and tighten the nut until snug. Repeat this process until two (2) bolts, one front and one rear, secure each side of the hayrack to the mounting bracket. These additional mounting fasteners will secure the hayrack to the mounting bracket, sufficiently to prevent loss. No change

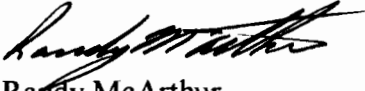
should be made to the existing huck bolts. This work is to be performed at no charge to the customer.

VEHICLES INVOLVED

The only trailers subject to this Recall are trailers manufactured on or after January 16, 2003 through June 26, 2007, which have as a factory added accessory, the covered hayrack attached to the roof of the trailer, and the hayrack assemblies which were sold separately as an after-market item. 4-Star will supply you with the names and address (if known) of owners who purchased these trailers for your follow-up in insuring that this correction is made, however, you should examine your own records to assure that all customers of these products are notified.

4-Star Trailers, Inc.

By:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Randy McArthur", written over a horizontal line.

Randy McArthur
Sales/Warranty Manager