

Safety Defect and Noncompliance Report Guide for Vehicles
PART 573 Defect and Noncompliance Report⁽¹⁾

On November 13, 2007, Fontaine Modification Co. [MFR] decided that (a defect which relates to motor vehicle safety) exists in the motor vehicles 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: 11/16/2007

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

1. Identify the full corporate name of the fabricating manufacturer of the vehicle being recalled. If the recalled vehicle is imported, provide the name and mailing address of the designated agent as prescribed by 49 U.S.C. §30164.

Fontaine Modification Co.
9827 Mt. Holly Rd.
Charlotte, NC 28207

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

Jeff Terry
V.P. Product Planning & Reliability

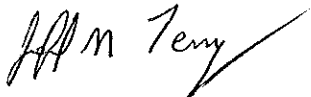
Telephone Number: 704-409-1605 Fax No.: 704-391-1671

Name and Title of Person who prepared this report.

Jeff Terry

V.P. Product Planning & Reliability

Signed:



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DEFECTS INVESTIGATION
RECALL MGMT DIV.

I. Identify the Vehicle Models Involved in the Recall

2. Identify the Vehicles Involved in the Recall, for each make and model or applicable vehicle line (provide illustrations or photographs as necessary to describe the vehicle), provide:

Make(s): Ford **Model Years Involved:** 1999-2006 **Model(s):** F450/F550 Classic Traveler

Production Dates: Beginning: Jan 1999 **Ending:** 5/26/06

VIN Range: Beginning: _____N/A_____ **Ending:** _____

Vehicle Type: Pickup **Bodystyle:** Classic Traveler Package

Descriptive information which characterizes/distinguishes the recalled vehicles from those model vehicles not included in the recall: Equipped with Reyco Granning Model 345P Air Ride Suspension

Make(s): **Model Years Involved:** **Model(s):**

Production Dates: Beginning: **Ending:**

VIN Range: Beginning: _____ **Ending:** _____

Vehicle Type: Bodystyle:

Descriptive information which characterizes/distinguishes the recalled vehicles from those model vehicles not included in the recall:

Make(s): **Model Years Involved:** **Model(s):**

Production Dates: Beginning: **Ending:**

VIN Range: Beginning: _____ **Ending:** _____

Vehicle Type: Bodystyle:

Descriptive information which characterizes/distinguishes the recalled vehicles from those model vehicles not included in the recall:

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.

Approximately 90%

II. Identify the Recall Population

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

Number of Vehicles: 293 Units total population, 43 have already been repaired

<u>Model</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Potentially Involved</u>
Ford F450/F550 Classic Traveler	1998-2006	293

Total Number Potentially Affected by the Recall:

293 total units, 43 have already been repaired

4. Furnish the approximate percentage of the total number of vehicles estimated to actually contain the defect or noncompliance: Approximately 90 %. The others were assembled using other air suspension systems.

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 vehicles: Fontaine Modification was the sole customer for the Reyco suspension in question. 293 units were shipped to Fontaine Modification by Reyco.

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.

The Bracket supporting the horizontal Track Rod at the frame attachment can become loose and eventually crack and break.

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

This condition occurs because the bolted joint between the bracket and frame (2 bolts and nut zerts) become loose causing undue stress on the other bracket attachment.

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

The bracket could break causing the track rod to be ineffective in maintaining lateral control between the axle and frame. The handling of the vehicle could be affected.

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

Routine inspection would reveal the loose bolts and the resulting fatigue cracks. In addition, some lateral instability should be noticed as the fatigue crack progresses, prior to fracture.

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

Reyco Industries Inc.
1205 Industrial Park Dr.
Mount Vernon Missouri 65712

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

Greg Richardson
V.P. of Engineering

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.

Date	Event
2002	Warranty Repair 1 unit
2004	Warranty Repair 14 units
2005	Warranty Repair 16 units
2006	Warranty Repair 12 units
Jan 18, 2007	Warranty Repair 1 unit
Aug 8, 2007	Larry Long (NHTSA) contacted Fontaine Modification concerning a filed complaint
Oct 3, 2007	Sonny Murianka contacted Fontaine Modification to follow up on the complaint and to discuss a NHTSA investigation
Nov 14, 2007	Decision to initiate a safety recall

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.

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 will involve inspection of the subject 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.

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

The remedy will include locktite to assure that the bolts remain tight. If the bracket has broken, it will be replaced with a new bracket containing conventional locking hardware.

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.

The product has been discontinued.

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.

11/16/07 – 11/30/07 Research VIN numbers affected.

12/7/07 – Research end user information from VIN numbers

12/14/07 – Notification letter sent to end users

VII. Furnish Recall Communications

9. 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.

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

1. 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) 366-5227 or by FAX at (202) 366-7882.

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 may be 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.