



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

1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

February 26, 2008

MR. JERRY L. STONER
ZIMMERMAN INDUSTRIES, INC.
196 WABASH RD.
EPHRATA PA 17522

NVS-215dgl
08V-081

Subject: AUXILIARY LIFT AXLE FAILURES/WATSON & CHALIN

Dear MR. STONER:

This letter serves to acknowledge Zimmerman Industries, Inc.'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:

STERLING/LT 8500/2006

NHTSA Campaign Number: 08V-081

Mfg's Report Date: February 11, 2008

Components: SUSPENSION:FRONT:CONTROL ARM:LOWER ARM

Potential Number of Units Affected: 1

Summary:

ZIMMERMAN IS RECALLING 1 MY 2006 STERLING LT 8500 EQUIPPED WITH A WATSON & CHALIN AUXILIARY AXLE. THE LOWER CAST ARMS COULD FRACTURE WHICH COULD AFFECT THE SUSPENSIONS ABILITY TO LIFT THE AXLE WHEN IT'S NOT NEEDED.

Consequence:

WARNINGS OF A SITUATION WHERE ONE SIDE OF THE UNIT DOES NOT LIFT AS MUCH AS THE OTHER SIDE, A VERTICAL VIBRATION OR ERRATIC BEHAVIOR OF THE SUSPENSION COULD OCCUR INCREASING THE RISK OF A CRASH.

Remedy:

WATSON & CHALIN WILL NOTIFY OWNERS AND PROVIDE REPAIR KITS ALONG WITH REPAIR INSTRUCTIONS. OWNERS MAY CONTACT WATSON & CHALIN MANUFACTURING AT 1-800-445-0736 OR ZIMMERMAN INDUSTRIES AT 1-888-577-6499.

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:

Notification to owners as required by 49 CFR Part 577 must be sent by the vehicle manufacturer(s). Therefore, 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. 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 your report, Zimmerman will be handling the remedy and quarterly reporting for this campaign. However, please be advised that 49 CFR 573.6 provides that the vehicle manufacturer is responsible for any safety related defect or any noncompliance in the vehicle or any item of original equipment. If Zimmerman's campaign is not satisfactory, you may be required to conduct a follow-up notification.

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 cursive script that reads "Patricia Wallace for".

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