



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration**

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE.
Washington, DC 20590

June 25, 2008

MR. ROGER LACKORE
DIRECTOR OF RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT
PIERCE MANUFACTURING, INC.
P.O. BOX 2017
APPLETON WI 54912-2017

NVS-215dgl
08V-274

Subject: STEERING COLUMN/TRW

Dear MR. LACKORE:

This letter serves to acknowledge Pierce Manufacturing, 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:

PIERCE/ARROW/1982-1991
PIERCE/DASH/1983-1989
PIERCE/DASH D8000/1987-1989

NHTSA Campaign Number: 08V-274

Mfg's Report Date: June 18, 2008

Components: STEERING:COLUMN

Potential Number of Units Affected: 2,372

Summary:

PIERCE IS RECALLING 2,372 MY 1982-1991 ARROW, MY 1983-1989 DASH, AND MY 1987-1989 DASH D8000 EMERGENCY VEHICLES EQUIPPED WITH TRW STEERING COLUMN. THE LOWER END OF THE TRW STEERING COLUMN IS ATTACHED TO A 90 DEGREE GEAR BOX AS IT PASSES THROUGH THE FLOOR OF THE CAB. IF THE SHAFT IS NOT WELL ALIGNED WITH THE GEAR BOX INPUT, A SIDE LOAD IS INDUCED IN THE LOWER SHAFT BEARING. THIS SIDE LOAD CAN CAUSE BEARING FAILURE. IF THE LOWER STEERING COLUMN BEARING FAILS, THE BEARING RACE OR COMPRESSION SPRING CUTS INTO THE HOLLOW STEERING SHAFT TUBE.

Consequence:

THIS FAILURE MOST LIKELY WILL OCCUR ON HIGH MILEAGE VEHICLES DURING LOW SPEED, HIGH STEERING EFFORT EVENTS INCREASING THE RISK OF A CRASH.

Remedy:

DEALERS WILL REPLACE THE ORIGINAL TRW STEERING COLUMN WITH A NEW TRW STEERING COLUMN RETROFIT KIT FREE OF CHARGE. THE MANUFACTURER HAS NOT YET PROVIDED AN OWNER NOTIFICATION SCHEDULE. OWNERS MAY CONTACT PIERCE AT 1-920-832-3000.

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 except for the following items:

You are required to provide an estimated date including month, day, and year, when you will send notifications to owners, dealers, and distributors as soon as it becomes available.

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).

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', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

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