



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

1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

October 3, 2008

MR. JEFF INGELS
CHIEF ENGINEER
XL SPECIALIZED TRAILERS, INC.
PO BOX 400
MANCHESTER, IA 52057

NVS-215paw
08V-506

SUBJECT: IMPROPER WELDING

DEAR MR. INGELS:

This letter serves to acknowledge XL Specialized Trailers, 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:

XL/80 JPS/1998-2008
XL/100 JPS/2001-2008

NHTSA Campaign Number: 08V-506

Mfg's Report Date: October 1, 2008

Components: TRAILER HITCHES: FIFTH WHEEL ASSEMBLY

Potential Number of Units Affected: 164

Summary:

XL SPECIALIZED TRAILERS IS RECALLING 164 MY 1998-2008 80 JPS AND MY 2001-2008 100 JPS JEEP TRAILERS WITH SLIDING FIFTH WHEEL PLATES. THESE TRAILERS MAY NOT HAVE THE PROPER WELDING PATTERN ATTACHING THE SLIDER FRAME TO THE JEEP FRAME.

Consequence:

THE WELD COULD BREAK INCREASING THE RISK OF A CRASH.

Remedy:

XL WILL FULLY WELD THE SLIDING FIFTH WHEEL FRAME TO THE JEEP FRAME. THE RECALL IS EXPECTED TO BEGIN DURING OCTOBER 2008. OWNERS MAY CONTACT XL AT 1- 877-283-4852.

Notes:

XL RECALL NO. SR2. 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 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).

XL must file a sample of the envelope which you intend to use to mail the recall notice to owners. The words "SAFETY", "RECALL", "NOTICE" in any order must be printed on the envelope in larger font than the customers name and address.

As stated in Part 573.7, submission of the first of six consecutive quarterly status reports is required within one month after the close of the calendar quarter in which notification to purchasers occurs. Therefore, the first quarterly report will be due on or before 30 days after the close of the calendar quarter.

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

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