



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

1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

December 24, 2008

MR. GEORGE M. DANIELS
VICE PRESIDENT, SERVICE OPERATIONS
HINO MOTORS SALES U.S.A., INC.
41180 BRIDGE STREET
NOVI, MI 48375

NVS-215paw
08V-667

SUBJECT: AIR SUSPENSION REAR AXLE U-BOLTS

DEAR MR. DANIELS:

This letter serves to acknowledge Hino Motors Sales U.S.A., 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:

HINO/ND8J/2008-2009

HINO/NE8J/2008-2009

HINO/NJ8J/2008-2009

HINO/NV8J/2008-2009

NHTSA Campaign Number: 08V-667

Mfg's Report Date: December 9, 2008

Components: SUSPENSION: REAR

Potential Number of Units Affected: 130

Summary:

HINO IS RECALLING 130 MY 2008-2009 ND8J, NE8J, NJ8J, AND NV8J CONVENTIONAL TRUCKS. THE REAR AXLE U-BOLTS WERE NOT PROPERLY TIGHTENED. THE LOWER SPRING SEAT MAY NOT CONTACT THE AXLE HOUSING PROPERLY, PRODUCING A GAP ON THE FRONT OR REAR SIDE OF THE AXLE HOUSING.

Consequence:

THIS GAP COULD ALLOW THE U-BOLTS TO LOOSEN AND/OR CAUSE THE LOWER SPRING SEAT TO CRACK. THE AXLE COULD BECOME MISALIGNED AND/OR SEPARATED FROM THE MOUNTINGS INCREASING THE RISK OF A CRASH.

Remedy:

DEALERS WILL INSPECT THE REAR AIR SUSPENSION LOWER SPRING SEAT FOR A GAP BETWEEN THE REAR AXLE AND LOWER SPRING SEAT. THE U-BOLTS WILL BE TIGHTENED TO THE SPECIFIED TORQUE. THE RECALL IS EXPECTED TO BEGIN ON OR ABOUT JANUARY 19, 2009. OWNERS MAY CONTACT HINO AT 1-248-699-9330.

Notes:

HINO RECALL NO. M0140. 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).

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 read "G. Person". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "G" and a stylized "P".

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