



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

1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

December 24, 2008

MR. BARRY A. MITCHELL
DIRECTOR, CUSTOMER SERVICE/WARRANTY
GREAT DANE TRAILERS
PO BOX 67
SAVANNAH, GA 31402

NVS-215paw
08V-678

SUBJECT: KINGPIN FAILURES

DEAR MR. MITCHELL:

This letter serves to acknowledge Great Dane Trailers' 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:
GREAT DANE/TRAILER/2005

NHTSA Campaign Number: 08V-678

Mfg's Report Date: December 12, 2008

Components: TRAILER HITCHES

Potential Number of Units Affected: 2,335

Summary:

GREAT DANE IS RECALLING 2,335 MY 2005 DRY FREIGHT SEMI-TRAILERS. THE KINGPINS CAN BREAK OFF AS THE TRACTORS WERE ATTEMPTING TO COUPLE TO THE TRAILERS.

Consequence:

IF A KINGPIN WERE TO BREAK OFF DURING OVER THE ROAD OPERATION, IT COULD RESULT IN THE SEPARATION OF THE TRAILER FROM THE TRACTOR WHICH COULD INCREASE THE RISK OF A CRASH.

Remedy:

DEALERS WILL INSPECT THE KINGPINS FOR LOT/HEAT CODE. ALL TRAILERS IDENTIFIED WITH KINGPINS WITHIN THE SUSPECTED LOT AND HEAT CODE WILL BE REMOVED FROM SERVICE AND SCHEDULED FOR FIELD TESTING. THE RECALL IS EXPECTED TO BEGIN ON OR ABOUT JANUARY 5, 2009. OWNERS MAY CONTACT GREAT DANE AT 1-877-369-3493 OR E-MAIL AT WWW.CUSTOMER_SERVICE@GREATDANETRAILERS.COM.

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.

We have reviewed your proposed owner notification letter and it does not quite meet the requirements of Part 577.

The first sentence needs to read: "This notice is sent to you in accordance with the requirements of the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act."

The second sentence needs to read: "Great Dane has decided that a defect which relates to motor vehicle safety exists in certain 2005 Dry Freight Semi-Trailers manufactured between 49/2004 and 11/18/2004."

Please provide the following additional information and be reminded of the following requirements:

Please provide the following additional information and be reminded of the following requirements:

Identify the supplier of the recalled component by corporate name and address. Identify by name and title the chief executive officer or knowledgeable representative of the supplier.

Great Dane 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.

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", written in a cursive style.

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