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Recall A-0801: Steering shaft length

11 January 2008

Associate Administrator for Enforcement
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
Attn: Recall Management Division (NVS-215)
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

08V-024
(2 pages)

Re: Report Pursuant to 49 CFR 573.6
Autocar, LLC, Recall No. A-0801
NHTSA Recall No. 08V-024

The following information is in accordance with the requirements of 49 CFR Part 573.6 as it applies to a defect relating to motor vehicle safety.

573.6(c)(1)

Autocar, LLC ("Autocar").

573.6(c)(2)

Autocar has decided that a defect which relates to motor vehicle safety exists in (28) 2007 and 2008 model year WXR heavy-duty class 8 vehicles, built between 05 February 2007 and 14 December 2007, with serial numbers in the range 205321 through 206515.

Affected vehicles were built with a telescoping steering shaft between the in-cab steering components and the power steering gear box, located on the vehicle's frame. The steering shaft has been determined to be too long.

573.6(c)(3)

28 vehicles are affected.

573.6(c)(4)

100% of the 28 vehicles are affected.

573.6(c)(5)

On affected vehicles, the telescopic steering shaft (situated between the in-cab steering components and the power steering gear box on the vehicle's frame) is too long. The additional length in the steering shaft results in the need for increased steering effort on the part of the vehicle's driver. The driver may not be prepared for such need, which could result in an unpredictable reaction by the driver.

573.6 (c)(6)

RECEIVED

12 NOV 2007 A vehicle in Autocar's production facility was observed in which the cab would not squarely sit on the frame when in the lowered (driving) position. The cause was determined to be the extended length of the telescopic steering shaft.

16 DEC 2007 Autocar received a complaint from a vehicle owner, stating that the vehicle was difficult to steer.

02 JAN 2008 Autocar conducted a closed-course driving test and concluded that the affected test vehicle required increased effort to steer the vehicle.

04 JAN 2008 Autocar decided to initiate a recall.

573.6(c)(7)

02 JAN 2007 Autocar conducted a closed-course road test and concluded the affected test vehicle required increased effort to steer the vehicle.

573.6(c)(8)(i)

Autocar will voluntarily initiate an owner notification and recall of all 28 affected vehicles. Autocar will distribute to owners of affected vehicles an Owner Notification Letter which will describe the defect and provide instructions for scheduling repair of the vehicle at an authorized Autocar service facility, at no cost to the vehicle's owner.

573.6(c)(8)(ii)

04 JAN 2008 Autocar decided to initiate a recall.

10 JAN 2008 573.6 letter to be sent to NHTSA.

01 FEB 2008 Owner notification letter sent to be sent to NHTSA for approval.

05 FEB 2008 Dealer repair bulletin to be sent to Autocar dealers and fleet owners.

08 FEB 2008 Owner notification letter and recall response card to be sent to vehicle owners.

573.6(c)(9)

Not Applicable.

The number which Autocar has assigned to this recall for tracking purposes is A-0801.

Respectfully,

Mike Koenig
Compliance
Autocar, LLC
765-489-6024