

SENT VIA FACSIMILE (202) 366-7882 & E-MAIL

Attn: Mr. George Person

Recall Management Division
Office of Defects Investigation (NEF-111)
Safety Assurance
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
1200 New Jersey Ave SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

RECEIVED

2008 APR 17 10:30 AM

DEFECTS INVESTIGATION
RECALL MGMT DIV.

Re: **SAF Holland Simplex Fifth Wheels**
Kenworth Recall No.: 08KW5

08V-176
(2 pages)

Dear Mr. Person:

PACCAR Inc is furnishing notification to NHTSA in accordance with 49 CFR Part 573 "Defect and Noncompliance Reports." This motor vehicle safety defect involves vehicles manufactured by the Kenworth division of PACCAR Inc.

Description of the Defect

If the pivot bolt joint for the lever bar is over torqued, the spacer deforms, and makes contact with the lever bar. This condition coupled with corrosion associated with the seasonal dry out, is affecting the lock system of the fifth wheel, preventing the fifth wheel jaw from latching securely around the trailer king pin. The fifth wheel may fail to latch without the operator's knowledge, causing the tractor and trailer to disengage.

Identification of Affected Vehicles

Kenworth has identified 172 vehicles manufactured from March 1, 2006 to December 5, 2006. Impacted models include the T800 short hood, W900 long hood and T600; all are model year 2007.

PACCAR Parts has sold 292 Simplex fifth wheels or Simplex fifth wheel top place assemblies from January 9, 2006 to December 25, 2007.

Chronology of Events Leading to Recall

On February 11, 2008 Kenworth received communication from NHTSA that Volvo Trucks North America and Freightliner LLC reported vehicles manufactured with SAF Holland Simplex fifth wheels contained a safety related defect. Further correspondence between NHTSA and SAF Holland identified Kenworth Truck Company as a purchaser of Simplex fifth wheels. On February 12, 2008, SAF Holland told Kenworth this is not a safety related issue as this condition is evident to the driver when visually inspecting the release handle and position of the red

indicator in accordance with the proper coupling procedure. SAF Holland related that a Simplex fifth wheel field campaign notification had been communicated directly to Kenworth dealers last summer. As an aside, neither Kenworth Safety and Compliance, nor the PACCAR Legal Department received such communication.

Description of Remedy

Kenworth will inspect the pivot bolt joint for a deformed spacer and if necessary, replace the bolt, washer and spacer with a hex-head shoulder bolt and washer.

Identification of Recall Schedule

The Kenworth number for this campaign is "08KW5".

Very truly yours,

Mike Walton
Counsel

cc: Patricia Wallace, NHTSA
Delia Lopez, NHTSA

MKW:kaf

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