

# The Knapheide Manufacturing Company

1848 Westphalia Strasse • P.O. Box 7140 • Quincy, Illinois 62305-7140 • (217) 222-7131 • Fax: (217) 222-5939

July 18, 2008

**08V-344**  
**(9 pages)**

Associate Administrator for Safety Assurance (NSA-01)  
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration  
400 7<sup>th</sup> Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20590

On July 15, 2008, The Knapheide Manufacturing Company decided that a safety defect related to motor vehicle safety exists in items of motor vehicle equipment listed below, and is furnishing notification to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration in accordance with 49CFR Part 573 Defect and Non-Compliance Reports.

This report was prepared on July 17, 2008 by Jeff Steil, Director of Product Support, The Knapheide Manufacturing Company, 1848 Westphalia Strasse, P.O. Box 7140, Quincy, Illinois 62305-7140, phone number 217-222-7131, fax number 217-222-7550.

This recall includes some Pro Series truck beds built by Knapheide Truck Equipment Company Southwest, 398 North I35 Service Road, Red Oak, Texas 75154 (phone 972-617-3770). Pro Series truck beds that were built between October 23, 2006 and July 15, 2008 and equipped with an ICC bumper which included a provision for a ball hitch are subject to this recall. A sales brochure is attached that shows the ICC bumper/hitch mounted on the rear of the truck bed.

Based on production records from Knapheide Truck Equipment Company Southwest from the time that Knapheide Manufacturing Company purchased the business (October 23, 2006) through the current date, there is a potential that 108 truck beds were equipped with the defective ICC bumper/hitch.

The defect in the ICC bumper/hitch involves the horizontal 4" channel section (hitch channel) to which the ball hitch attaches. On some truck beds there is insufficient weld attaching the hitch



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2008 JULY 28 A 10:35

DEFECTS INVESTIGATION  
RECALL MGMT DIV.

E-Mail: [knapheide@knapheide.com](mailto:knapheide@knapheide.com)

channel to the supporting structure. Knapheide has also become aware that some customers are using the hitch to pull trailers that are beyond the capacity of the hitch channel. The defect can result in bending of the hitch channel or in the worst case the hitch could be pulled off the vehicle. Typically the hitch will fail in bending prior to the hitch coming off the vehicle.

This defect was discovered after a customer reported to Knapheide Truck Equipment Company Southwest on July 7, 2008 that the hitch had come off his vehicle while towing a trailer on July 3, 2008 resulting only in property damage to the trailer and a fence. This was the first reported incident of the welds failing on this hitch, and there have been no other warranty claims on this hitch. Subsequent engineering analysis resulted in a decision on July 15, 2008 to recall the hitch.

Two remedies for repairing this hitch defect will be offered to customers. For those customers who do not use the hitch, the hitch will be removed from the truck bed and replaced with an ICC bumper. For those customers who need a hitch, a receiver hitch assembly will be added to the existing hitch assembly and all suspect weld joints will be re-welded. The addition of the receiver hitch will prevent the use of a ball hitch and add significant structural strength to the hitch assembly.

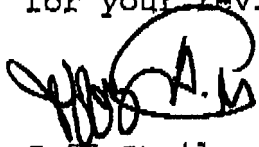
This defect was corrected on July 14, 2008 by discontinuing production of the defective hitch and offering the truck bed with only an ICC bumper or a receiver hitch. The production remedy is essentially the same as the recall remedy.

The estimated schedule for completion of this recall is as follow:

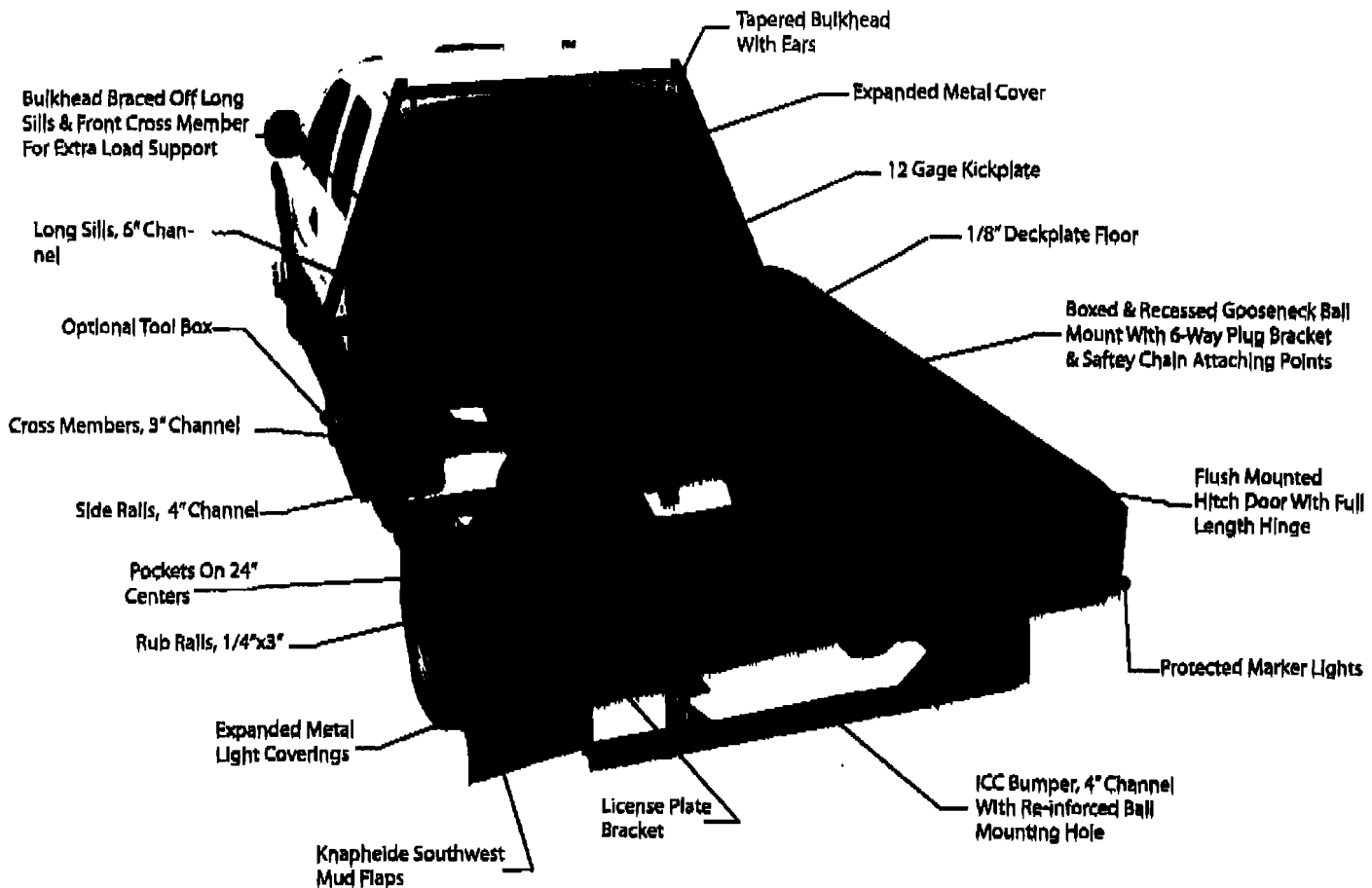
- Identification of defective truck beds - July 21, 2008
- Identification of owner of vehicle - August 4, 2008
- Start notification to owners & dealers - August 5, 2008
- Complete notification to owners & dealers - August 11, 2008
- Parts available for remedy - August 18, 2008
- Begin reworking units - August 18, 2008

Completion of recall - October 31, 2008

Letters for notification to owners and dealers is attached  
for your review.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jeff Steil', with a large, stylized flourish or scribble above the name.

Jeff Steil  
Director of Product Support

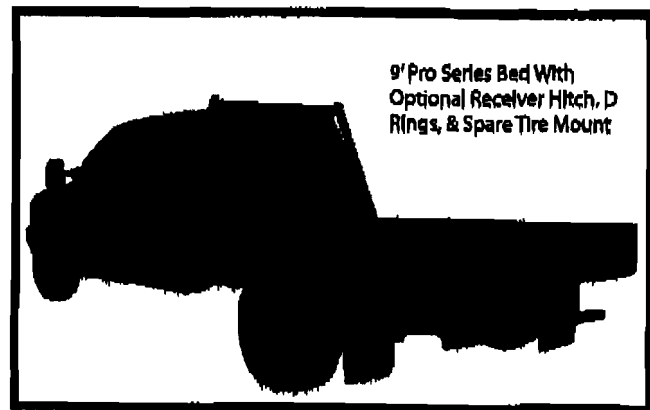


### Other Standard Features:

- Primer & 2 Coats of Black Dupont® Acrylic Enamel paint.
- Beds Are Mounted With 3" Channel Iron Straps Welded To The Long Sills And Bolted To The Truck Frame With Grade 8 Bolts.
- Marker Lights Have Reflectors And Are A Sealed, Shock Resistant System With Copper Crimped, Heat Shrinked, Tubing Joints & Wire Loom Enclosed Harness.
- Tapered Bulkheads Are Standard On 8 1/2', 9', & 11' Beds As Are The Recessed Gooseneck Hitches, Square Bulkheads Are An Option.
- Square Bulkheads Are Standard On 12' & Up Beds With Recessed Gooseneck Hitches An Option.

### Popular Options:

- Tool Boxes
- Receiver Hitch And D Rings
- 2 5/16" 30,000# Gooseneck Ball
- Brake Controller And 6 Way Connector
- Removable Solid Sides
- Stake Sides
- Back Up Alarm
- Paint To Match Vehicle
- Lights And Louvers In The Bulkhead
- Work Lights
- Strobe Lights
- Folding Sides
- Spare Tire Mount
- Ladder Rack
- Transfer Tank And Pump
- Pintle Plate
- Water Can Holder
- Custom Quotes



**Knapheide Southwest**  
398 N. I-35 Service Road  
Red Oak, Texas 75154

(972) 617-3770  
(877) 473-5763 Toll Free  
(972) 617-8581 fax

August 5, 2008

Dear Vehicle Owner:

This notice is sent to you in accordance with the requirements of the National Highway Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act.

The Knapheide Manufacturing Company has determined that a defect which relates to motor vehicle safety exists in certain Pro Series truck beds which are equipped with an ICC bumper/ball hitch and built by Knapheide Truck Equipment Company Southwest between October 23, 2006 and July 14, 2008.

The defect in the ICC bumper/hitch involves the horizontal 4 inch channel section (hitch channel) to which the ball hitch attaches. On some truck beds there is insufficient weld attaching the hitch channel to the supporting structure. Knapheide has also become aware that some customers are using the hitch to pull trailers that are beyond the capacity of the hitch channel. The defect can result in bending of the hitch channel or in the worst case the hitch could be pulled off the vehicle. The ICC bumper/hitch should not be used for towing until the defect has been corrected.

Your vehicle has been identified as potentially having this defect. For this reason we ask that you arrange for service to correct the condition without delay. The service and required parts as described in this letter will be provided free of charge.

Two remedies for correcting the hitch defect are available. If you do not need a hitch, the hitch can be removed from the truck bed and replaced with an ICC bumper that does not include a provision for towing. If you need a hitch, a class 4 receiver hitch assembly (10,000 lbs. max. trailer weight, 2000 lbs. max. tongue weight) will be added to the existing hitch assembly and all suspect weld joints will be re-welded.

The repair work is expected to take about 8 hours to complete. However, additional time may be required depending on the repair facilities schedule. Parts for the repair work are scheduled to be available by August 18, 2008. To obtain this repair service, contact:

Russ Boozer  
Knapheide Truck Equipment Company Southwest  
Phone number 877-473-5763

If you have sold or traded your vehicle, please call the above phone number and let us know. If you are able to provide contact information for the new owner it would be greatly appreciated.

If you have any problem obtaining the needed repair, please contact The Knapheide Manufacturing Company product support group hotline at 217-592-5233 or call 1-800-288-7131 and ask for product support. A product support representative will arrange for prompt attention to your vehicle.

We regret any inconvenience which this action may cause you. However, we are concerned about your safety. If you are unable to get this defect repaired without charge and within a reasonable time, you may submit a written complaint to the Administrator, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 400 Seventh Street SW, Washington, DC 20590, or call 1-888-327-4236.

Thank you for attention to this important matter.

The Knapheide Manufacturing Company

August 5, 2008

Dear Vehicle Dealer:

This notice is sent to you in accordance with the requirements of the National Highway Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act.

The Knapheide Manufacturing Company has determined that a defect which relates to motor vehicle safety exists in certain Pro Series truck beds which are equipped with an ICC bumper/ball hitch and built by Knapheide Truck Equipment Company Southwest between October 23, 2006 and July 14, 2008.

The defect in the ICC bumper/hitch involves the horizontal 4 inch channel section (hitch channel) to which the ball hitch attaches. On some truck beds there is insufficient weld attaching the hitch channel to the supporting structure. Knapheide has also become aware that some customers are using the hitch to pull trailers that are beyond the capacity of the hitch channel. The defect can result in bending of the hitch channel or in the worst case the hitch could be pulled off the vehicle. The ICC bumper/hitch should not be used for towing until the defect has been corrected.

Our records indicate that your dealership may have one or more vehicles that have been identified as potentially having this defect. Federal law prohibits selling any motor vehicle with a safety related defect until the defect has been remedied. For this reason we ask that you arrange for service to correct the condition without delay. The service and required parts as described in this letter will be provided free of charge.

Two remedies for correcting the hitch defect are available. If you do not need a hitch, the hitch can be removed from the truck bed and replaced with an ICC bumper that does not include a provision for towing. If you need a hitch, a class 4 receiver hitch assembly (10,000 lbs. max. trailer weight, 2000 lbs. max.

tongue weight) will be added to the existing hitch assembly and all suspect weld joints will be re-welded.

The repair work is expected to take about 8 hours to complete. However, additional time may be required depending on the repair facilities schedule. Parts for the repair work are scheduled to be available by August 18, 2008. To obtain this repair service, contact:

Russ Boozer  
Knapheide Truck Equipment Company Southwest  
Phone number 877-473-5763

If you have sold any of these vehicles prior to this notification, please call the above phone number and let us know. If you are able to provide contact information for the new owner it would be greatly appreciated.

If you have any problem obtaining the needed repair, please contact The Knapheide Manufacturing Company product support group hotline at 217-592-5233 or call 1-800-288-7131 and ask for product support. A product support representative will arrange for prompt attention to your vehicle.

We regret any inconvenience which this action may cause you. However, we are concerned about vehicle safety. If you are unable to get this defect repaired without charge and within a reasonable time, you may submit a written complaint to the Administrator, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 400 Seventh Street SW, Washington, DC 20590, or call 1-888-327-4236.

Thank you for attention to this important matter.

The Knapheide Manufacturing Company



**The Knapheide Manufacturing Company**

1848 Westphalia Strasse - P.O. Box 7140 - Quincy, Illinois 62305-7140

Mr. A.J. Customer  
1234 West Street  
Nowhere, Texas 12345

**SAFETY RECALL NOTICE**

