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Recall A-0804: WXLL front extension brackets structural integrity

23 September 2008

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

Re: Report Pursuant to 49 CFR 573.6  
Autocar, LLC, Recall No. A-0804  
NHTSA Recall No. 08V-447

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 identified a defect in 2007, 2008 and 2009 model-year WXLL-model heavy-duty class 8 vehicles built between 27 May 2007 and 12 September 2008, with serial numbers in the range 205479 through 208649.

**573.6(c)(3)**

598 vehicles.

**573.6(c)(4)**

100% of 598 vehicles.

**573.6(c)(5)**

The affected vehicles may develop cracks mainly in the top flange of the frame rail extension at the front splay break where the re-enforcing straps are welded. The deflection may eventually result in cracking of the frame rail (see photograph below).



**573.6 (c)(6) and (7)**

- 24 JUL 2008            Autocar received a complaint of cracking from a vehicle owner.
- 25 JUL 2008 -        Investigation and inspection of vehicles.  
24 AUG 2008
- 26 JUL 2008        Finite Element Analysis (FEA) identified potential stress-related issues in the proximity of welds in the affected area under fatigue load conditions. Condition is exasperated by additional loads imposed by front loader hydraulic system.
- 25 AUG 2008        Autocar decided to initiate a recall for residential front end loader WXLL units
- 25 AUG 2008 -        Investigation continued: nationwide inspection performed by  
16 SEPT 2008        Autocar personnel

17 SEPT 2008      Autocar decided to extend the recall to all WXLL, 598 units

**573.6 (c)(8)(i)**

Autocar will voluntarily initiate an owner notification and recall of all 598 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)**

25 AUG 2008      Autocar decided to initiate a recall.  
02 SEPT 2008      573.6 letter to be sent to NHTSA.  
24 SEPT 2008      Updated 573.6 letter to be sent to NHTSA  
20 OCT 2008      Owner notification letter sent to be sent to NHTSA for approval.  
30 OCT 2008      Dealer repair bulletin to be sent to Autocar dealers and fleet owners.  
31 OCT 2008      Owner notification letter and recall response card to be sent to vehicle owners.

**573.6 (c) (9)**

Not Applicable.

**573.6 (c) (11)**

Autocar's campaign number assigned to this recall is A-0804.

Respectfully,



Ms. Kanupriya Arora  
*Compliance*  
Autocar, LLC  
765-489-1969