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DEFECTS INVESTIGATION
RECALL MGMT DIV.

Recall A-0804: WXLL front extension brackets structural integrity

02 September 2008

08V-447
(3 pages)

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

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 and 2008 model-year WXLL-model heavy-duty class 8 vehicles built between 07 September 2007 and 06 August 2008, with serial numbers in the range 204309 through 208414. The defect has occurred in vehicles with residential front-loader applications, where the loader hydraulic system imposes additional load on the front end of the vehicle.

573.6(c)(3)

181 vehicles.

573.6(c)(4)

100% of 181 vehicles.

573.6(c)(5)

The affected vehicles may develop cracks mainly in the top flange of the RH extension of the frame rail at the front splay break where the re-enforcing straps are welded. During front-loader operation, residual hydraulic pressure causes the front loader system to push down on the bumper-mounted brackets, causing visible deflection of the chassis from the suspension front hanger bracket forward. 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.

573.6(c)(8)(i)

Autocar will voluntarily initiate an owner notification and recall of all 181 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)

02 SEP 2008 573.6 letter to be sent to NHTSA.

26 SEP 2008 Owner notification letter to be sent to NHTSA for approval.

06 OCT 2008 Dealer repair bulletin to be sent to Autocar dealers and fleet owners.

07 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)

The number Autocar has assigned to this recall for tracking purposes is A-0804.

Respectfully,



Kanupriya Arora
Compliance
Autocar, LLC
765-489-1969