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Recall A-0804 Rev. 1: WXLL front extension brackets structural integrity

05 March 2009

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

Re: **Additional** Report Pursuant to 49 CFR 573.6
Autocar, LLC, Recall No. A-0804 Rev. 1
NHTSA Recall No. 08V-447

The following information is being provided in accordance with the requirements of 49 CFR Part 573.6 as it applies to a defect relating to motor vehicle safety. This report follows the original report dated 02 September 2008 and a revised report dated 23 September 2008 and provides (1) a revised designation of affected vehicles, and (2) a revised remedy for the defect.

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 April 2007 and 13 January 2009, with serial numbers in the range 205479 through 209176.

573.6(c)(3)

770 vehicles.

573.6(c)(4)

100% of 770 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. 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. This condition is further exasperated by the design of the Residential Front Loader fork and arm design that, due to the hydraulics design, has the potential to cause significant additional loading in the front of frame extension area.
- 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 model configurations (expanding the recall to 598 units).

- 31 SEPT 2008 -
10 FEB 2009 Additional engineering, investigation and testing was conducted, until Autocar was confident that a new I-beam-shaped extension would improve the overall quality of the design and provide extended life, improving the solution proposed in A-0804.
- 11 FEB 2009 Autocar decided to expand the recall to 770 units and replace the front frame extensions with the new I-Beam extension design, including those vehicles which had already completed the earlier campaign.

573.6(c)(8)(i)

Autocar will voluntarily initiate an owner notification and recall of all 770 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 the recall.
- 02 SEPT 2008 573.6 letter was sent to NHTSA.
- 24 SEPT 2008 573.6 Revision 1 letter was sent to NHTSA.
- 20 OCT 2008 Owner notification letter was submitted to NHTSA for approval.
- 30 OCT 2008 Dealer repair bulletins were sent to Autocar dealers and fleet owners.
- 31 OCT 2008 -
29 JAN 2009 Owner notification letters and recall response cards were mailed to vehicle owners.
- 18 FEB 2009 573.6 Revision 2 letter to be sent to NHTSA.
- 27 FEB 2009 Owner notification to be submitted to NHTSA for approval.
- 12 MAR 2009 Dealer repair bulletins to be sent to Autocar dealers and fleet owners.
- 13 MAR 2009 Owner notification and recall response cards 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 Rev. 1.