



Great Dane Trailers

A Division of Great Dane Limited Partnership

August 19, 2010

Ms. Jennifer T. Timian
Acting Chief, Recall Management Division
Office of Defects Investigation
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

Re: Recall 08V-678

Dear Ms. Timian:

As a follow up to our telephone conversation of August 18, 2010 regarding the above referenced recall the customer notice letter attached to our letter of July 27, 2010 to Daniel Smith was the draft letter of the customer notice. After working with Tom Bowman and Patricia Wallace on revisions to the customer notice letter and the addition of the PH-958 kingpin grouping the final customer notice was sent out to our customers. This final draft letter is what you currently have on-line.

With regard to the PH-955 kingpin grouping on trailers also built in our Kewanee, IL manufacturing plant we have been addressing those kingpins as a field campaign. Although some of these 204 kingpins were found to be beyond the manufacturing tolerances for hardness; based upon the information we have we can not make the determination that these kingpins are the subject of the notification requirements of 49 CFR§ 577.5. The kingpin groupings being recalled had exhibited fractures of kingpins during the coupling process while this grouping has been operated in service for over five years with no reported field fractures.

Of these 204 kingpins we have identified and addressed all but 65 trailers. The trailers reported to contain these kingpins are contained in two fleets and we are actively inspecting trailers in one fleet. We have recently determined that the other fleet has thirteen trailers which we believe contain PH-955 kingpins and we will notify them of our intent to inspect those trailers as well as part of the ongoing field campaign.

If at any point we make the determination that the kingpins in this heat/lot code grouping are the subject of the Agency's notification requirements we will contact you immediately.

If after your review of this information, you should have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Barry A. Mitchell". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'B' and 'M'.

Barry A. Mitchell

Director, Customer Service/Warranty