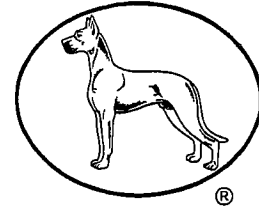


Great Dane Trailers



SERVICE BULLETIN

SERVICE BULLETIN #425

**TO: ALL BRANCH MANAGERS, DEALER PRINCIPALS, SERVICE,
PARTS AND SALES MANAGERS**

**FROM: BARRY A. MITCHELL
DIRECTOR CUSTOMER SERVICE / WARRANTY**

SUBJECT: NHTSA Kingpin Recall 08V-678

Great Dane has identified that our primary king pin vendor in 2004 had shipped a quantity of king pins to our production facilities that do not meet Great Dane's hardness specification, subsequently three (3) of these kingpins have failed and broken off as tractors were attempting to couple to the trailers. Independent testing of the failed kingpins confirmed they were outside Great Dane's hardness tolerances and do not comply with Great Dane's material specifications for kingpins.

The failed kingpins were two (2) kingpins with a lot/heat treat code of NS 919 and one (1) kingpin with a lot/heat treat code of PH 958. Kingpins with these lot/heat treat codes were installed in Kewanee, IL built 2005 Model year Dry Freight trailers manufactured between 4/9/2004 and 11/18/2004.

Great Dane is conducting a NHTSA recall on the trailers produced during the time frame 4/9/2004 and 11/18/2004 when the suspect kingpins were in house and could have been utilized in the manufacture of trailers. The attached recall letter is being sent to the owners of the trailers produced during this time frame identifying the trailers and instructing them what to do to comply with this recall. If you are contacted and requested to determine if the customers recalled trailers contain kingpins from the suspect lot/heat treat codes then the below listed "Visual Inspection" procedure should be performed and the findings reported.

The inspection procedure is as follows:

1. Clean the bottom of the king pin with a wire brush to allow the lot and heat codes to be verified and recorded along with the individual trailer V.I.N. number.
2. Attachment #1 is an engineering drawing that details how to identify the king pin markings and shows the affected lot/heat treat code combinations.
3. Attachment #2 is the "Visual Pin Inspection Form" that is to be used to capture and report the required information in order to comply with the recall requirements.
This form must be faxed to Great Dane Customer Service at fax# 912-644-2164.

Note: The trailer VIN and kingpin information must be reported to Great Dane Customer Service regardless of whether or not it is in the suspect lot/heat treat code combinations or not in order to have it recorded and removed from the recall.

All trailers inspected and not found to be in the suspect groups shall be noted on the inspection form and released for service.

All trailers identified with kingpins within the suspect lot/heat treat code groups must be removed from service and scheduled for field testing. Field testing will be arranged through and coordinated by Great Dane Customer Service by calling 912-644-2260.

Trailers that pass the field testing will be released to be returned to service. If testing determines the kingpin falls outside of our hardness specifications, the affected trailer must have the upper coupler replaced before being released for service.

Upon being notified of a kingpin failing the field testing, Great Dane Customer Service will make arrangements for the necessary field replacement of the upper coupler assembly through one of our authorized service facilities. Once the upper coupler has been replaced the trailer can then be returned to service.

We recognize the hardship that this situation has placed on our customers but it is absolutely necessary because of the safety implications of a defective kingpin.