



U.S. Department  
of Transportation  
**National Highway  
Traffic Safety  
Administration**

1200 New Jersey Avenue SE  
Washington, DC 20590

May 21, 2009

ERIC S. HANDLER  
VP/GENERAL MANAGER  
PETERSEN INDUSTRIES  
4000 SR 60 WEST  
LAKE WALES FL 33859-8234

NVS-215dgl  
09V-156

Subject: SPINDLE FAILURE

Dear MR. HANDLER:

This letter serves to acknowledge Petersen Industries' notification to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) of a safety defect in the products described below for which a safety recall campaign shall be conducted pursuant to Federal law.

Please review the following information to ensure that it conforms to your records as this information is being made available to the public. If the information does not agree with your records, please contact us immediately to discuss your concerns.

**Makes/Models/Model Years:**  
PETERSEN/RS3 GRAPPLE/2006

**NHTSA Campaign Number:** 09V-156

**Mfg's Report Date:** April 25, 2009

**Components:** SUSPENSION:REAR:AXLE:SPINDLE

**Potential Number of Units Affected:** 123

**Summary:**

PETERSEN IS RECALLING 123 MY 2006 RS3 GRAPPLE TRUCKS. UNDER LONG-TERM USE, THE SPINDLE PORTION OF THE HEAD ASSEMBLY MAY DEVELOP CRACKS.

**Consequence:**

THESE CRACKS POSE A POTENTIALLY SERIOUS DANGER WHICH COULD RESULT IN THE BREAKING OF THE SPINDLE, RESULTING IN THE BOOM SEPARATING FROM THE PEDESTAL WITHOUT WARNING, AND COULD RESULT IN SERIOUS INJURY OR DEATH.

**Remedy:**

PETERSEN WILL REPLACE THE HEAD ASSEMBLIES WITH A NEW DESIGN FREE OF CHARGE. THE RECALL BEGAN DURING APRIL 2009. OWNERS MAY CONTACT PETERSON AT 1800-930-5623.

**Notes:**

CUSTOMERS MAY ALSO CONTACT THE NATIONAL HIGHWAY TRAFFIC SAFETY ADMINISTRATION'S VEHICLE SAFETY HOTLINE AT 1-888-327-4236 (TTY 1-800-424-9153), OR GO TO [HTTP://WWW.SAFERCAR.GOV](http://www.safercar.gov).

The information in your defect report appears to satisfy the requirements of 49 CFR 573.6.

It is our understanding that notification to owners began on April 20, 2009, prior to our review of the owner notification letter. Should it become necessary for Petersen Industries to do a renotification, the follow-up notification must be submitted to this office for review and it must comply with the requirements of Part 577.5, "Notification pursuant to a manufacturer's decision" and Part 577.10, "Follow-up notification."

Please provide the following additional information and be reminded of the following requirements:

Copies of all notices, bulletins, dealer notifications, and other communications that relate to this recall, including a copy of the final owner notification letter and any subsequent owner follow-up notification letter(s), are required to be submitted to this office no later than 5 days after they are originally sent (if they are sent to more than one manufacturer, distributor, dealer, or purchaser/owner).

As stated in Part 573.7, submission of the first of six consecutive quarterly status reports is required within one month after the close of the calendar quarter in which notification to purchasers occurs. Therefore, the first quarterly report will be due on or before 30 days after the close of the calendar quarter.

Your contact for this recall will be Delia Lopez who may be reached by phone at 202-366-9525, or by email at [Delia.lopez@dot.gov](mailto:Delia.lopez@dot.gov), or through the office email at [RMD.ODI@dot.gov](mailto:RMD.ODI@dot.gov). We look forward to working with you for successful completion of this recall campaign.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G. Person', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

George H. Person  
Chief, Recall Management Division  
Office of Defects Investigation  
Enforcement