

CURT MFG., INC. PART 573 Defect and Noncompliance Report for Equipment

On August 10, 2009 CURT Manufacturing Inc. decided that a defect which relates to motor vehicle safety exists in items of motor vehicle equipment listed below, and is furnishing notification to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration in accordance with 49 CFR Part 573 Defect and Noncompliance Responsibility and Reports.

Date this report was prepared: August 10, 2009

Furnish the manufacturer's identification code for this recall (if applicable): N/A

1. Identify the full corporate name of the fabricating manufacturer/brand name/trademark owner of the recalled item of equipment. If the recalled item of equipment is imported, provide the name and mailing address of the designated agent as prescribed by 49 U.S.C. §30164.

CURT Mfg. Inc.
6208 Industrial Drive
Eau Claire, WI 54701

Identify the corporate official, by name and title, whom the agency should contact with respect to this recall.

Frank Espinoza III, Quality Manager

Telephone Number: 1-800-738-7213 Fax No.: 715 831 1581

Name and Title of Person who prepared this report.

Frank Espinoza III, Quality Manager

Signed: fespinoza@curtmfg.com, *Frank Espinoza III* 8-10-09

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OFFICE OF DIRECTORS
OF THE DIVISION

I. Identify the Recalled Items of Equipment

2. Identify the Items of Equipment Involved in this Recall, for each make and model or applicable item of equipment product line (provide illustrations or photographs as necessary to describe the item of equipment), provide:

Generic name of the item: Class 1 Receiver Hitch

Model: Infiniti Ex 35

Part Number: 11500 Size: Class 1

Function: Attach to vehicle for towing purposes

Other information which characterizes/distinguishes the items of equipment to be recalled: None

Identify the approximate percentage of the production of all the recalled models manufactured by your company between the inclusive dates of manufacture provided above, that the recalled model population represents.

100% of product sold since 3/26/08 when these hitches were first sold.

II. Identifying the Recall Population

3. Furnish the total number of items of equipment recalled potentially containing the defect or noncompliance.

<u>Model</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Number of Items Potentially Involved</u>
Class 1, 11500	2008-2009	91 sold

Total Number Potentially Affected by the Recall: 91 (total population)

4. Furnish the approximate percentage of the total number of items of equipment estimated to actually contain the defect or noncompliance:

Approximately 10%, based on failure rate, the percentage is very small.

Identify and describe how the recall population was determined--in particular how the recalled models were selected and the basis for the beginning and final dates of manufacture of the recalled items of equipment:

100% of products per Sales spreadsheet from derived dates of 3/26/2008 to the final manufacturing date of 3/12/2009

III. Describe the Defect or Noncompliance

5. Describe the defect or noncompliance. The description should address the nature and physical location of the defect or noncompliance. Illustrations should be provided as appropriate.

When hitch is loaded to the maximum rating, the bumper structure of the vehicle may pull away from the vehicle frame.

Describe the cause(s) of the defect or noncompliance condition.

Interaction with the vehicle bumper beam at connection points. (bumper beam supports are flimsy)

Describe the consequence(s) of the defect or noncompliance condition.

If the bumper pulls away from the vehicle frame this could cause an unstable driving condition due to the product connected to the hitch becoming unbalanced.

Identify any warning which can (a) precede or (b) occur.

N/A

If the defect or noncompliance is in a component or assembly purchased from a supplier, identify the supplier by corporate name and address.

N/A

Identify the name and title of the chief executive officer or knowledgeable representative of the supplier: N/A

IV. Provide the Chronology in Determining the Defect/Noncompliance

If the recall is for a defect, complete item 6, otherwise item 7.

6. With respect to a defect, furnish a chronological summary (including dates) of all the principal events that were the basis for the determination of the defect. The summary should include, but not be limited to, the number of reports, accidents, injuries, fatalities, and warranty claims.

3 Customer Call Tracker Incidents:

9-4-08 Incident # 1102

10-21-08 Incident # 1166

10-27-08 Incident # 1180

Claim Records: 3 Tracker Incidents above

Claim Review and Corrective Actions: Defective hitches returned for evaluation. New version 11510 sent as replacements.

7. With respect to a noncompliance, identify and provide the test results or other data (in chronological order and including dates) on which the noncompliance was determined. N/A

V. Identify the Remedy

8. A description of the manufacturer's program for remedying the defect or noncompliance. This program shall include a plan for reimbursing an owner or purchaser who incurred costs to obtain a remedy for the problem addressed by the recall within a reasonable time in advance of the manufacturer's notification of owners, purchasers and dealers, in accordance with §573.13 of this part. A manufacturer's plan may incorporate by reference a general reimbursement plan it previously submitted to NHTSA, together with information specific to the individual recall. Information required by §573.13 that is not in a general reimbursement plan shall be submitted in the manufacturer's report to NHTSA under this section. If a manufacturer submits one or more general reimbursement plans, the manufacturer shall update each plan every two years, in accordance with §573.13. The manufacturer's remedy program and reimbursement plans will be available for inspection by the public at NHTSA headquarters.

CURT MFG., INC will pay for any outstanding inventory at our distributors location, or replace all inventory with a new designed part number 11510.

All related labor costs to replace and install the new hitch will be paid by CURT MFG., INC.

9. Furnish a description of the manufacturer's remedy for the defect or noncompliance. Clearly describe the differences between the recall condition and the remedy.

CURT MFG., INC will replace with a new designed hitch, or pay for the cost of outstanding inventory.

10. Clearly describe the distinguishing characteristics of the remedy component/assembly versus the recalled component/assembly.

The new replacement part is clearly labeled as part number 11510 versus 11500 on the old defective product. The replacement part also mounts in a different location with additional hardware.

11. Identify and describe how and when the recall condition was corrected in production. If the production remedy was identical to the recall remedy in the field, so state. If the product was discontinued, so state.

The 11500 product was discontinued and a newly designed product 11510 was manufactured on 11/17/08.

VI. Identify the Recall Schedule

12. Furnish a schedule or agenda (with specific dates) for notification to other manufacturers, dealers/retailers, and purchasers. Please, identify any foreseeable problems with implementing the recall.

Recall Notification to be mailed on 8/14/09 to listed distributors and customers.

Follow up calls to verify Notification receipt on 8/21/09.

Replacement parts available to be sent per request from 8/21/09 forward.

VII. Furnish Recall Communications

13. Furnish a final copy of all notices, bulletins, and other communications that relate directly to the defect or noncompliance and which are sent to more than one manufacturer, distributor, or purchaser. This includes all communications (including both original and follow-up) concerning this recall from the time your company determines the defect or noncompliance condition on, not just the initial notification. *A DRAFT copy of the notification documents should be submitted to this office by Fax (202-366-7882) for review prior to mailing.*

Note: These documents are to be submitted separately from those provided in accordance with Part 579.5 requirements.