



June 29, 2009

**Subject: New Safety Recall (SC0341, Front Axle Beam)**

**Attention:**

Associate Administrator for Enforcement  
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E.  
Washington, DC 20590

**Submitted via Email to Delia Lopez**

The following information is submitted in accordance with the requirements of 49 CFR Part 573.6 as it applies to a defect relating to motor vehicle safety.

**573.6(c)(1)**

Mack Trucks, Inc. ("Mack Trucks")  
2100 Mack Blvd  
Allentown, PA 18103

**573.6(c)(2)**

Certain vehicles manufactured from October 1, 2003 through September 30, 2004 with axle beams manufactured by Bharat Forge Ltd. ("Bharat").

The selection of vehicles was based on the axle model and vehicle build date.

**Affected Models and Model Years:**

CL, CV, DM, LE, MR, and RB – 2004, 2005  
RD - 2004

**Component Manufacturer:**

Bharat Forge Ltd.  
Mundhwa  
Pune 411036  
India  
+91 (20) 687 1666

**573.6(c)(3)**

There are approximately ten thousand three hundred (10,300) vehicles affected by the recall of which there are nine thousand one hundred seventeen (9,117) vehicles that were sold in the United States.



**573.6(c)(4)**

The percentage of the ten thousand three hundred vehicles containing the defect is unknown.

**573.6(c)(5)**

The axle beam may have transverse shear lines on the bottom of the axle from the trimming process. These lines, if present, can promote initiation of cracks, which over time may possibly lead to an axle beam failure and vehicle crash.

**573.6 (c)(6)**

Chronology of principle events that were the basis for the determination:

- |          |   |
|----------|---|
| 8/19/08  | Received report of an axle failure.   |
| 10/21/08 | Lab results suggest cause of axle failure to be associated with manufacturing defect. Investigation opened.                                 |
| 11/1/08  | 2 <sup>nd</sup> report of axle failure received.  |
| 11/4/08  | Mack Trucks notifies supplier of possible defect. Supplier initiates internal investigation.  |
| 12/3/08  | Supplier reports that no issues were identified through their internal processes for the time period when the axle beams were manufactured. |
| 2/25/09  | Mack initiates inspection program for two fleets who had reported failures.   |
| 4/2/09   | 3 <sup>rd</sup> report of axle failure received.  |
| 6/15/09  | Investigation complete. Findings presented to Mack Trucks' Product Safety Committee for decision.   |
| 6/23/09  | Mack Trucks makes determination of a safety related defect.   |
| 6/29/09  | NHTSA notified that Mack Trucks would initiate a voluntary safety recall.   |

**573.6(c)(7)**

Not applicable



**573.6(c)(8)**

Mack will initiate a voluntary owner notification, and recall all ten thousand three hundred vehicles.

The recall repair will consist of inspection of the axle beam and replacement as required.

Reimbursement for cost incurred by the owner for “prenotification remedies” will be addressed on a case-by-case basis according to the “General Plan for Reimbursement of Pre-notification Remedies” which was published December 8<sup>th</sup>, 2004.

The number, which has been assigned to this recall by Mack, is **SC0341**.

A Safety Recall Alert will be released to dealers on or before July 3, 2009, which informs the dealers of the recall. Owner letters are tentatively scheduled to be mailed on or before July 31, 2009.

An advance copy of the owner’s letter will be submitted to NHTSA for review and approval prior to release to the owners.

If there are any questions regarding this information, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

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