



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

1200 New Jersey Avenue SE  
Washington, DC 20590

October 29, 2010

MR. JEFF STRUCK  
COMPLIANCE MANAGER  
TIMPTE INC.  
1827 INDUSTRIAL DRIVE  
DAVID CITY, NE 68632

NVS-215dgl  
10V-515

**SUBJECT: FRACTURE COUPLER**

**DEAR MR. STRUCK:**

This letter serves to acknowledge Timpte Inc's notification to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) of a defect in the vehicles listed below for which a safety recall campaign will 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:**  
TIMPTE/TDH/2009-2011

**NHTSA Campaign Number:** 10V-515

**Mfg's Report Date:** OCTOBER 15, 2010

**Components:** EQUIPMENT MECHANICAL

**Potential Number of Units Affected:** 279

**Summary:**

TIMPTE IS RECALLING CERTAIN MODEL YEAR 2009-2011 TDH TRAILERS EQUIPPED WITH ALUMINUM UPPER COUPLERS. THESE TRAILERS HAVE THE POTENTIAL TO FRACTURE SOME OF THE STRUCTURAL COMPONENTS OF THE UPPER COUPLER.

**Consequence:**

THIS COULD CAUSE PREMATURE FAILURE OF THE UPPER COUPLER INCREASING THE RISK OF PERSONAL INJURY TO THE DRIVER.

**Remedy:**

DEALERS WILL INSTALL UPDATED REINFORCEMENT BRACKETS TO THE MAIN BEAM AND FRONT SUPPORT CHANNELS TO PREVENT POSSIBLE FAILURES. THIS SERVICE WILL BE PERFORMED FREE OF CHARGE. THE SAFETY RECALL IS EXPECTED TO BEGIN DURING NOVEMBER 2010. OWNERS MAY CONTACT TIMPTE AT 1-402-367-3056.

**Notes:**

CUSTOMERS MAY 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.

We have reviewed your proposed owner notification letter and it does not meet all the requirements of Part 577.

Please change the word “determined” to “decided”.

A risk/consequence needs to be added on the second paragraph, i.e., “This could cause premature failure of the upper coupler increasing the risk of personal injuries to the driver.”

A sentence should be added concerning lease vehicles, i.e., “Federal regulations require that any vehicle lessor receiving this recall notice must forward a copy of this notice to the lessee within ten days.”

Please revise your owner letters to include the following updated NHTSA hotline information: “...the Administrator, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE., Washington, DC 20590; or call the toll-free Vehicle Safety Hotline at 1-888-327-4236 (TTY: 1-800-424-9153); or go to <http://www.safercar.gov>.”

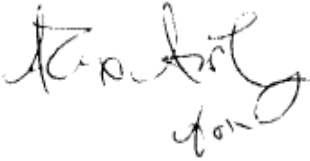
Please provide the following additional information and be reminded of the following requirements:

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 30 days after the close of the calendar quarter in which the campaign was initiated. Thereafter, quarterly reports will be due on or before 30 days after 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 toward a successful completion of this recall campaign.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jennifer Timian". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "J".

Jennifer Timian  
Chief, Recall Management Division  
Office of Defects Investigation  
Enforcement