

**Safety Defect and Noncompliance Report Guide for Vehicles
Part 573 Defect and Noncompliance Report¹**

On June 16, 2010 Altec Industries Inc decided that a defect which relates to motor vehicle safety exists in the motor vehicles 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: **September 27, 2010**

Furnish the manufacturer's identification code for this recall (if applicable): **CSN 531**

1. Identify the full corporate name of the fabricating manufacturer of the vehicle being recalled. If the recalled vehicle is imported, provide the name and mailing address of the designated agent as prescribed by 49 U.S.C. §30164.

Altec Environmental Products, LLC (AEP)

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

Joshua T. Chard
Director, Corporate and Product Safety

Telephone Number: **205-408-8627** Fax No.: **205-981-3733**

Name and Title of Person who prepared this report.

Philip D. Purdy
Manager, Media

Signed: _____



I. Identify the Vehicle Models Involved in the Recall

2. Identify the Vehicles Involved in the Recall, *for each make and model or applicable vehicle line (provide illustrations or photographs as necessary to describe the vehicle), provide:*

Make(s): Altec Environmental Products Model Years Involved: 2008-2010

Model(s): WC126/166 and WC126A/166A

Production Dates: Beginning: January, 2008 Ending: May, 2010

VIN Range: Beginning: 5WDS110167S200918

Ending: 5WDS11010AS200310

Vehicle Type: Wood Chipper Bodystyle: N/A

Descriptive information which characterizes/distinguishes the recalled vehicles from those model vehicles not included in the recall:

This recall only affects AEP WC126/166 and WC126A/166A model wood chippers built between January 2008 and May 2010. These are the only two models with this style of frame.

II. Identify the Recall Population

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

<u>Model</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Number of Vehicles Potentially Involved</u>
<u>WC126/166</u>	<u>2008 -2009</u>	<u>341</u>
<u>WC126A/166A</u>	<u>2009-2010</u>	<u>345</u>

Total Number Potentially Affected by the Recall: 686

4. Furnish the approximate percentage of the total number of vehicles estimated to actually contain the defect or noncompliance: 100%

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 vehicles:

The recall population was determined by the beginning and ending dates of a design change of the frame of the WC126/166 and WC126A/166A model wood chippers.

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.

AEP has become aware of cracks developing in the frame rails of wood chippers. This recall is limited to units manufactured after a design change was made to a material specification. This change allowed concentrated loads on the frame rail flange at the axle mount that may produce cracks.

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

Material specification design change

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

Cracks may develop in the frame rails.

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

This area of the frame is identified in the manual as an area to be periodically inspected. If cracks begin to form, they should be visible during the inspection.

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 principle 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.

In May of 2010, Altec Environmental Products, LLC (AEP) learned of a broken frame rail on a customer's unit. The unit was repaired and returned to service in May of 2010. In June of 2010 AEP learned of two units that developed cracks in the frame rails of a second customer. After inspecting the second customer's fleet in June of 2010 it was found that 15 of 22 units had cracks. Strain gage testing performed in July and August of 2010 identified the concentrated load location and magnitude. From the Testing data AEP developed a reinforcing bracket in August 2010 for retrofit of uncracked units.

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.

AEP will issue a recall (CSN 531) for all the affected wood chippers. The CSN provides instructions on how to inspect for cracks and actions to be taken if frame rail cracks are found. AEP will reimburse the customer for parts and labor for the repair and will replace any chipper frame that can not be repaired.

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.

Chippers with cracked frames will either be repaired or replaced.

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

Remedied frames will have a reinforcing bracket on the frame near the axle mount.

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 chipper frame rails were redesigned, reinforced and tested to prevent further occurrences of frame rail cracks.

VI. Identify the Recall Schedule

10. 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.

Attached to this report is a draft of AEP's CSN 531. Once CSN 531 has been approved and returned, AEP will immediately mail it to the customers affected. There are no dealers/retailers affected.