



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

1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

March 25, 2011

MR. BLAS GONZALEZ
REGIONAL MANAGER
FIELD SERVICE DEPARTMENT
UTILITY TRAILER MANUFACTURING COMPANY
17295 E. RAILROAD STREET
CITY OF INDUSTRY CALIFORNIA 91748

NVS-215dgl
11V-191

SUBJECT: AUTOMATIC SLACK ADJUSTER/ACCURIDE/GUNITE

DEAR MR. GONZALEZ:

This letter serves to acknowledge Utility Trailer Manufacturing Company's notification to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) of a safety recall campaign which will be conducted pursuant to Federal law for the vehicles listed below.

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:

UTILITY/VS2RA/2011

NHTSA Campaign Number: 11V-191

Mfg's Report Date: March 16, 2011

Components: SERVICE BRAKES, AIR: SLACK ADJUSTERS: AUTOMATIC

Potential Number of Units Affected: 105

Summary:

UTILITY TRAILER IS RECALLING CERTAIN MODEL YEAR 2011 VS2RA HEAVY DUTY TRUCKS, MANUFACTURED FROM DECEMBER 2010 THROUGH MARCH 2011, EQUIPPED WITH GUNITE AUTOMATIC SLACK ADJUSTERS. DUE TO AN INCOMPLETE "KNITTING" OF THE IRON AT THE TIME OF CASTING, INADEQUATE STRUCTURAL INTEGRITY OF THE SLACK ADJUSTER HOUSING CAN OCCUR, WHICH COULD CAUSE THE HOUSING TO BREAK AT THE HANDLE UNDER NORMAL OPERATING LOADS.

Consequence:

SLACK ADJUSTERS WITH THIS FLOW NOTCH COULD CRACK UNDER NORMAL BRAKING CONDITIONS CAUSING LOSS OF BRAKING WHICH COULD RESULT IN A VEHICLE CRASH.

Remedy:

UTILITY TRAILER WILL NOTIFY OWNERS AND DEALERS WILL REPLACE THE SUBJECT SLACK ADJUSTERS FREE OF CHARGE. THE SAFETY RECALL IS EXPECTED TO BEGIN DURING MARCH 2011. OWNERS MAY CONTACT GUNITE AT 1-800-677-3786.

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).

It is our understanding that notification to owners began in March 2011, prior to our review of the owner notification letter. In the future, please ensure this office reviews a draft of your proposed owner notification letter at least five business days before you intend to mail those letters. Should it become necessary for Utility Trailer 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 your report, Gunite will be handling the remedy, and quarterly reporting for this campaign. However, please be advised that 49 CFR 573.6 provides that the vehicle manufacturer is responsible for any safety related defect or any noncompliance in the vehicle or any item of original equipment. If Gunite's campaign is not satisfactory, you may be required to conduct a follow-up notification.

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, or through the office email at RMD.ODI@dot.gov. We look forward to working with you toward a successful completion of this recall campaign.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kelly Schuler for". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

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