



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

1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

April 8, 2011

MR. BARRY A MITCHELL
DIRECTOR CUSTOMER SERVICE/WARRANTY
GREAT DANE TRAILERS
LATHROP AVENUE
P.O. BOX 67
SAVANNAH, GA 31402

NVS-215dgl
11V-216

SUBJECT: AUTOMATIC AIR BRAKES SLACK ADJUSTER/ACCURIDE/GUNITE

DEAR MR. MITCHELL:

This letter serves to acknowledge Great Dane Trailers' 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:

GREAT DANE/SEMI VAN/2011
GREAT DANE/REEFER/2011

NHTSA Campaign Number: 11V-216

Mfg's Report Date: March 21, 2011

Components: SERVICE BRAKES, AIR: SLACK ADJUSTERS: AUTOMATIC

Potential Number of Units Affected: 56

Summary:

GREAT DANE IS RECALLING CERTAIN MODEL YEAR 2011 SEMI VAN AND REEFER TRAILERS MANUFACTURED FROM OCTOBER 15, 2010, THROUGH JANUARY 31, 2011 AND EQUIPPED WITH GUNITE AUTOMATIC AIR BRAKE 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:

GREAT DANE WILL NOTIFY OWNERS AND ACCURIDE/GUNITE WILL CONDUCT THE REMEDY FOR THIS CAMPAIGN AND REPLACE THE SUBJECT SLACK ADJUSTERS FREE OF CHARGE. THE SAFETY RECALL IS EXPECTED TO BEGIN DURING APRIL 2011. OWNERS MAY CONTACT ACCURIDE AT 1-800-677-3786.

Notes:

CUSTOMERS MAY ALSO 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).

We have reviewed your proposed owner notification letter and it meets the requirements of Part 577.

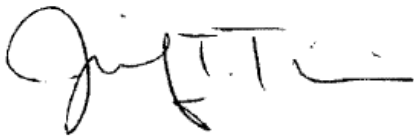
Please provide the following additional information and be reminded of the following requirements:

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, Accuride 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 Accuride'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 black ink, appearing to read "Jennifer Timian". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

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