



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

1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

July 25, 2011

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

NVS-215dgl
11V-360

SUBJECT: ALUMINUM FLATBED TRAILER SUSPENSION BRACKET BOLTS

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/GPA/2010-2011

NHTSA Campaign Number: 11V-360

Mfg's Report Date: July 15, 2011

Components: SUSPENSION: REAR: SPRINGS: AIR SUSPENSION SYSTEM

Potential Number of Units Affected: 119

Summary:

GREAT DANE IS RECALLING CERTAIN MODEL YEAR 2010-2011 GPA ALUMINUM FLATBED TRAILERS. THE LOCK NUTS AND BOLTS ATTACHING THE AIR RIDE SUSPENSION HANGERS TO THE TRAILER ARE DEFECTIVE WHICH MAY RESULT IN LOSS OF FASTENER TORQUE ALLOWING THE SUSPENSION HANGERS TO BECOME LOOSE.

Consequence:

THE SUSPENSION COMPONENTS COULD DETACH FROM THE TRAILER RESULTING IN LOSS OF CONTROL AND A CRASH.

Remedy:

GREAT DANE WILL REPLACE ALL DEFECTIVE SUSPENSION NUTS AND BOLTS FREE OF CHARGE. THE SAFETY RECALL IS EXPECTED TO BEGIN DURING JULY 2011. OWNERS MAY CONTACT GREAT DANE CUSTOMER SERVICE AT 1-877-369-3493.

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).

The chronology of principal events in your defect report does not satisfy the requirements of 49 CFR 573.6. Please provide a chronology that meets the minimum requirements of 573.6(c)(6) including, but not limited to, a summary of the complaints and field information which served as the basis for your defect decision.

We have received your proposed owner notification letter and it is currently under review. You will be notified of any changes or concerns once our review is complete.

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

Please provide us with the beginning and ending dates for the build date range of vehicles affected by this recall.

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 one month after the close of the calendar quarter in which notification to purchasers occurs. Therefore, the first quarterly report will be due on or before 30 days after the close of the calendar quarter.

Your contact for this recall will be Delia Lopez who may be reached by phone at 1-202-366-9525, 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