



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

1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

MR. VINC AULICK
AULICK MANUFACTURING, INC.
730 AVE I P.O. BOX 259
SCOTTSBLUFF, NE. 69361

NVS-215jin
11V-454

SUBJECT: REAR BUMPER HEIGHT NONCOMPLIANCE

DEAR MR. AULICK:

This letter serves to acknowledge Aulick Manufacturing, Inc.'s (Aulick) notification to the National Highway Traffic 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:

AULTIMATE/REAR BUMPERS/2004-2011

NHTSA Campaign Number: 11V-454 **Mfg's Report Date:** September 1, 2011
Amended September 9, 2011

Components: STRUCTURE:BODY:BUMPERS

Potential Number of Units Affected: 642

Summary:

AULICK MANUFACTURING IS RECALLING CERTAIN AULTIMATE AGRICULTURAL TRAILERS FOR A REAR BUMPER THAT FAILS TO COMPLY WITH FEDERAL MOTOR VEHICLE SAFETY STANDARD NUMBER 224, "REAR IMPACT PROTECTION" AND FEDERAL MOTOR VEHICLE SAFETY STANDARD NUMBER 223 "REAR IMPACT GUARDS." THE BOTTOM OF THE BUMPER

EXCEEDS THE MAXIMUM ALLOWABLE HEIGHT FROM THE GROUND, WHICH LIMITS THE UNDERRIDE PROTECTION. ADDITIONALLY, THE PROJECTED VERTICAL HEIGHT OF THE REAR BUMPER IS LESS THAN 100MM.

Consequence:

IN THE EVENT OF A CRASH, A PASSENGER VEHICLE'S BUMPER MAY TRAVEL UNDER THE TRAILER'S BUMPER. WITHOUT THE PROTECTION THAT THE BUMPER AFFORDS, THE INJURIES TO THE PASSENGERS IN THE VEHICLE MAY BE INCREASED. IN ADDITION, THE IMPACT LOAD DISTRIBUTION MAY BE DECREASED IN THE EVENT OF A CRASH DUE TO NONCOMPLIANT VERTICAL HEIGHT.

Remedy:

AULICK WILL REPLACE THE REAR BUMPER WITH ONE THAT HAS THE CORRECT PLACEMENT AND IS OF COMPLIANT HEIGHT. THE RECALL IS EXPECTED TO BEGIN DURING SEPTEMBER 2011. OWNERS MAY CONTACT AULICK AT 1-308-632-6197.

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).

Please be reminded of the following requirements:

You are required to submit a draft owner notification letter to this office no less than five days prior to mailing it to the customers. 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).

Aulick must file a sample of the envelope which you intend to use to mail the recall notice to owners. The words "SAFETY", "RECALL", "NOTICE" in any order must be printed on the envelope in larger font than the customer's name and address.

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 Josh Neff who may be reached by phone at 1-202-366-0698, or by email at Joshua.Neff@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 "R. Willard". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end of the last name.

Ric Willard
Acting Chief, Recall Management Division
Office of Defects Investigation
Enforcement