



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

1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

September 26, 2011

PETER GINGERICH, CFO
THE ALUMINUM TRAILER COMPANY
401 SOUTH WILLIAMS STREET
P.O. BOX 396
NAPPANEE, IN 46550

NVS-215dgl
11V-482

SUBJECT: WEAKENED TRAILER HITCH

DEAR MR. GINGERICH:

This letter serves to acknowledge The Aluminum Trailer Company's (ATC) 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.

Makes/Models/Model Years:

ATC/BOSS HOSS/2008
ATC/CARGO/2009
ATC/CONTENDER/2007-2008
ATC/FAST LANE/2007-2009
ATC/GTS/2008
ATC/QST/2007-2012
ATC/SS/2010-2012

NHTSA Campaign Number: 11V-482

Mfg's Report Date: September 20, 2011

Components: TRAILER HITCHES

Potential Number of Units Affected: 145

Summary:

ATC IS RECALLING CERTAIN MODEL YEAR 2007-2012 ATC CAR HAULER TRAILERS WITH EXTENDED HITCHES MANUFACTURED FROM DECEMBER 1, 2006 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 16, 2011. THESE TRAILERS WITH 12" EXTENDED HITCH FRAMES ARE BREAKING NEAR THE FRONT CROSS MEMBER ON THE FRAME OF THE TRAILER. THIS IS CAUSED BY INSUFFICIENT MATERIAL USED IN THE FRAME HITCH.

Consequence:

THE HITCH COULD POTENTIALLY BREAK CAUSING SEPARATION FROM THE TOWING VEHICLE, THEREBY INCREASING THE RISK OF LOSS OF CONTROL AND POSING A RISK OF PERSONAL INJURY AND PROPERTY DAMAGE.

Remedy:

ATC WILL REPAIR THE ALUMINUM TRAILER HITCH FREE OF CHARGE. THE SAFETY RECALL IS EXPECTED TO BEGIN DURING OCTOBER 2011. OWNERS MAY CONTACT ATC AT 1-877-441-2440.

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).

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 be reminded of the following requirements:

Any unsold trailers need to be remedied before they are sold to 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).

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 "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