



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

1200 New Jersey Avenue SE  
Washington, DC 20590

December 2, 2011

MR. ROY HEATH  
ENGINEERING DIRECTOR  
MERTZ MANUFACTURING, LLC  
1701 NORTH WAVERLY ROAD  
PONCA CITY, OK 74602

NVS-215dgl  
11V-555

**SUBJECT:** AUTOMATIC SLACK ADJUSTER/ACCURIDE/GUNITE

**DEAR MR. HEATH:**

This letter serves to acknowledge Mertz Manufacturing, LLC's (Mertz) 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:**  
MERTZ/HALLIBURTON/2010-2011

**NHTSA Campaign Number:** 11V-555

**Mfg's Report Date:** November 8, 2011

**Components:** SERVICE BRAKES, AIR: SLACK ADJUSTERS: AUTOMATIC

**Potential Number of Units Affected:** 257

**Summary:**

MERTZ IS RECALLING CERTAIN MODEL YEAR 2010 AND 2011 HALLIBURTON TRAILERS MANUFACTURED FROM NOVEMBER 2010, THROUGH MARCH 2011, AND 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:**

IF THE SLACK ADJUSTER HOUSING WERE TO BREAK, THE WHEEL BRAKE TO WHICH THE SLACK ADJUSTER IS ATTACHED WOULD NO LONGER FUNCTION, CAUSING THE VEHICLE TO HAVE REDUCED BRAKING CAPACITY AND, IF MOUNTED ON THE STEER AXLE, THE VEHICLE COULD PULL TO ONE SIDE, POSSIBLY RESULTING IN A CRASH.

**Remedy:**

MERTZ WILL NOTIFY OWNERS AND THE SLACK ADJUSTERS WILL BE REPLACED FREE OF CHARGE. THE SAFETY RECALL BEGAN DURING MARCH 2011. OWNERS MAY CONTACT MERTZ AT 580-767-8465 OR ACCURIDE AT 1-812-962-5000.

**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.

Your report indicated that you were notified of the defect in March 2011. Under Federal law, this agency is to be notified of all safety defect and/or noncompliance decisions within five business days. (49 CFR 573.6) Significant civil penalties can be assessed for this violation. (49 U.S.C. 30165(a)(1)) Please explain, in writing, why Mertz did not notify NHTSA and file its defect report within 5 business days and why penalties should not be assessed.

Please 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 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](mailto:Delia.lopez@dot.gov), or through the office email at [RMD.ODI@dot.gov](mailto: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