



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

1200 New Jersey Avenue SE  
Washington, DC 20590

December 21, 2011

MS. MELANIE STONE  
GENERAL COUNSEL  
COTTRELL INC.  
2125 CANDLER ROAD  
GAINESVILLE, GA 30507

NVS-215dgl  
11V-594

**SUBJECT: TRAILER AXLES/WHEEL END FIRE**

**DEAR MS. STONE:**

This letter serves to acknowledge Cottrell Inc.'s (Cottrell) notification to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) of a 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:**  
COTTRELL/TRAILER/2006-2011

**NHTSA Campaign Number:** 11V-594

**Mfg's Report Date:** December 16, 2011

**Components:** POWER TRAIN: AXLE ASSEMBLY

**Potential Number of Units Affected:** 1,767

**Summary:**

COTTRELL IS RECALLING ALL MODELS OF COTTRELL TRAILERS, MODEL YEAR 2006 THROUGH 2011, EQUIPPED WITH MERITOR AXLES THAT CONTAIN THE FAG BRAND BEARING SYSTEM. THE BEARING SYSTEM HAS EXHIBITED LOW DURABILITY LIFE IN CERTAIN VEHICLE APPLICATIONS.

**Consequence:**

PROLONGED USE OF THE SYSTEM IN THESE APPLICATIONS CAN RESULT IN THE DEGRADATION OF THE BEARING GREASE, THEREBY POTENTIALLY RESULTING IN A BEARING FAILURE AND SUBSEQUENT WHEEL END FIRE.

**Remedy:**

MERITOR IS HANDLING THE OWNER NOTIFICATION AND REMEDY FOR THIS CAMPAIGN. PLEASE SEE MERITOR'S RECALL (NHTSA NO. 11E-015). MERITOR WILL PERFORM THE REPAIRS FREE OF CHARGE. OWNERS MAY CONTACT MERITOR'S ONTRAC PERFORMANCE PLUS CALL CENTER AT 1-866-668-7221.

**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).

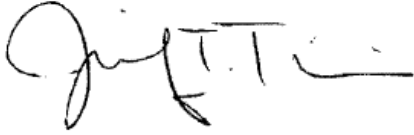
Please be reminded of the following requirements:

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).

It is our understanding that Meritor will be handling the owner notification, remedy, and quarterly reporting for this campaign. Furthermore, it is our understanding that the process for notifying owners began in January when Cottrell provided their customer contact information to Meritor prior to Cottrell knowing of their obligation to file a Defect Notice. It is the vehicle manufacturer's responsibility to notify its customers and 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 Meritor'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](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 written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

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