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CRANE CARRIER COMPANY

The Heavy Truck Specialists

Kelly Schuler
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
Department of Transportation
400 Seventh Street, SW
Washington, DC 20590

Via Email: kelly.schuler@dot.gov

Reference: Gunite Recall No. 11E-008

PART 573 Defect and Noncompliance Report

On March 16, 2011, Crane Carrier Company (manufacturer) was notified by our supplier Accuride Corporation that a defect related to motor vehicle safety exists in certain slack adjusters manufactured by Gunite in its Rockford, Illinois and Elkhart, Indiana plants during the period October 15, 2010 through January 31, 2011. Some slack adjusters manufactured during that period contained housings that could potentially have a flow notch in the handle of the slack adjuster. Slack adjusters that have this flow notch could under normal braking load result in a broken housing that may cause the brake to be inoperative that could increase the stopping distance and possibly result in a vehicle crash. Gunite is recalling all of the slack adjusters with the specified date codes.

This is our notification to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration in accordance with 49 CFR, Part 573.6, Defect and Noncompliance Information Report.

Date this report was prepared: April 11, 2011

1. Manufacturer: Crane Carrier Company
1925 N. Sheridan Rd.
Tulsa, OK 74158

Contact: Jeffrey L. Carpenter
Director of Service
Phone: (918) 832-7305
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Report prepared by: Jeffrey L. Carpenter

Signed: _____
Jeffrey L. Carpenter
Director of Service



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I. Identify the Vehicle Model Involved in the Recall

2. Vehicles involved in the recall:

Make: Crane Carrier
 Model year involved: 2010, 2011
 Models: DR, LDT2, LET2, OET, WS
 Production Dates: Beginning: 10/26/2010
 Ending: 3/18/2011
 VIN Range: Beginning: 1CYEAT483BT049505
 Ending: 1CYCCL588BT049953
 Vehicle Type: Cab and Chassis
 Body style: Refuse, Drill Rig, Well Service, Hay Hauler

II. Identify the Recall Population

3. The total number of vehicles recalled potentially containing the defect by model year.

Model	Year	Number
DR	2010	3
DR	2011	2
LDT2	2010	4
LET2	2010	11
LET2	2011	41
OET	2010	5
OET	2011	1
WS	2010	3
WS	2011	3

Total number potentially affected by the recall: 73

The recall population was identified by computer search of all cab and chassis' built with a specific slack adjuster part number. This search identified all cab and chassis containing the recalled parts.

4. The percentage of vehicles recalled estimated to actually contain the defect:

The information from Gunite states 87,420 housings have been inspected with ultrasonic or x-ray testing. Of the 87,420 inspected housings, 14,120 have the suspect lot code numbers. Of the housings with the suspect lot numbers 5 have been found to contain this condition, some to a minor degree. This represents 0.053%.

The recall population was identified by computer search of all cab and chassis' built containing a specific part number and within a specified manufacturing date range. This search identified all cab and chassis potentially containing the recalled parts. The basis for the beginning date of manufacture was the shipping date of the first batch of potentially defective slack adjusters to our facility. The basis for the final date of manufacture was the date we received notification of the recall and inspected everything in our possession.



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III. Describe the Defect

5. Description of the Defect:

Certain slack adjusters manufactured by Gunitite in its Rockford, Illinois and Elkhart, Indiana plants during the period October 15, 2010 through January 31, 2011 contain housings that could potentially have a flow notch in the handle of the slack adjuster. The nonconformance occurred in the "handle" portion of the slack adjuster housing during the casting operation. The dimensional characteristics of the area in question were not affected and contain adequate structural integrity, however, in certain cases the casting process resulted in a flow notch in the "handle" portion that reduced the effective cross section structural ("knitted") area.

The nonconformance is caused due to incomplete "knitting" of the iron at the time of casting, which is commonly referred to as a "misrun" by the foundry industry. While the dimensional characteristics of the area in question are within specification, in certain cases the casting process resulted in a "flow notch" in the "handle" portion. Causes of the nonconformance could be an interruption in the pour of the mold, low iron temperature, slow pouring practice or temporary blockage in the gating system.

Slack adjusters that have this flow notch could under normal braking load result in a broken housing that may cause the brake to be inoperative and increase the stopping distance and possibly result in a vehicle crash.

If a slack adjuster were to fail on the steer axle, a driver may notice a pull to one side upon application of the brakes. If the slack adjuster were to fail on a non-steer axle, a driver may notice degraded braking performance resulting in a longer stopping distance.

The slack adjusters were purchased from our supplier Gunitite Corporation.

The Crane Carrier part numbers of the defective parts: 195-179

Supplier: Gunitite Corporation
302 Peoples Avenue
Rockford, IL 61104

Contact: William Noll
Vice President, Corporate Quality
Tel: (812) 962-5024
Fax: (812) 962-5429



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IV. Chronology in Determining the Defect

6. On March 21, 2011, Crane Carrier Company Service Department was notified by Accuride Corporation via mail that 352 slack adjusters we had purchased from their subsidiary Gunite Corporation were affected by a safety recall. The letter identified the slack adjusters by part number, purchase order number, and shipment date. My computer search of the part numbers identified the corresponding chassis serial numbers these parts had been installed on. Sales files identified the customers involved and their contact information. On March 21, 2011, I submitted our initial notification to NHTSA. On April 11, 2011, I completed my research identifying all vehicles and their respective owners. Crane Carrier has not had any reports, accidents, injuries, fatalities, or warranty claims on the slack adjusters.

V. Identify the Remedy

8. Description of Manufacturer's remedy for the Defect:

The remedy will be to inspect all slack adjusters on the identified units in the field. Any slack adjusters identified as meeting the criteria specified (Lot Numbers and Mold Line Nomenclature) by Gunite will be replaced with new parts supplied by Gunite and the parts removed will be returned to Gunite.

Clearly describe the distinguishing characteristics of the remedy component/assembly versus the recalled component/assembly:

As of February 1, 2011, all slack adjusters shipped from Gunite have received ultrasonic or x-ray testing to confirm proper housing casting. Therefore, suspect Slack Adjusters can be distinguished by a unique date code. The inspected parts may also be identified by a green dot painted on the housing and on the box containing the housing or by the letter "C" etched on the edge cap of the housing.

Identify and describe how and when the recall condition was corrected in production. If the production remedy was identical to the recall remedy in the field, so state. If the product was discontinued, so state:

On 3/21/2011, all manufacturing and aftermarket parts on-hand inventory were checked using the Gunite inspection procedure and verified as not part of the recall. Additionally, all vehicles on the property were similarly checked and verified as not containing parts affected by the recall.

VI. Identify the Recall Schedule

All vehicles involved in the recall were identified by April 7, 2011. Crane Carrier dealers were notified on April 8, 2011 and they began inspecting new units not yet in service. Owner information was obtained and verified on April 11, 2011. Owner notification will begin upon NHTSA approval of our draft Owner Notification Letter.



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VII. Furnish Recall Communications

9. Vehicle / Owner list attached.

Draft Owner Notification Letter attached

Gunite Automatic Slack Adjuster Inspection Procedure