

**Volvo Trucks North America**

May 18, 2012

**Subject: Gunite Automatic Slack Adjuster-revised count  
NHTSA Recall Notice Number 11E-008****Attention:**Associate Administrator for Enforcement  
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E.  
Washington, DC 20590**Submitted via Email to Delia Lopez**

The following information is submitted in accordance with the requirements of 49 CFR Part 573.6 as it applies to a defect relating to motor vehicle safety.

**573.6(c)(1)**Volvo Trucks North America ("Volvo")  
7900 National Service Rd.  
Greensboro, NC 27409**573.6(c)(2)**

Vehicles with slack adjusters manufactured by Gunite in its Rockford Illinois and Elkhart, Indiana plants during the period of October 15, 2010 through January 31, 2011.

The selection of vehicles was based on parameters provide by Gunite.

Vehicle Models and Model Years include: 2011-2012 VHD; 2012 VNM; and 2011- 2012 VNL

**573.6(c) (3)**

There are approximately ~~one hundred fifty one~~ **two thousand seven hundred and sixty-five (2,765)** vehicles affected which were produced for sale in the United States.



**573.6(c)(4)**

The percentage of the vehicles expected to contain the defect is unknown.

**573.6(c)(5)**

Some slack adjusters in the suspect population may have a flow notch in the handle, which under normal braking load may result in a broken housing. If this occurs, the brake at that wheel end may become inoperative potentially increasing the vehicle's stopping distance, which may possibly result in a vehicle crash.

**573.6 (c)(6)**

Chronology of principle events that were the basis for the determination:

- 1/12/11      Notified Gunitite of failure of a slack adjuster at manufacturing facility. Investigation opened
- 1/28/11      Vehicles with Gunitite Slacks placed on delivery stop at Volvo's manufacturing facility
- 2/16/11      Volvo issues parts notice to dealers to inspect their spare parts inventory and return parts found with suspect lot number and mold line identifiers provided by Gunitite
- 3/25/11      Volvo receives recall notification letter from Gunitite that certain product that they had produced may contain a safety related defect
- 4/1/11        Email sent to NHTSA acknowledging receipt of Gunitite's recall notification letter
- 4/30/11      NHTSA notified that Volvo will initiate a voluntary safety recall on vehicles that may contain a suspect Gunitite automatic slack adjuster

**573.6(c)(7)**

Not applicable

**573.6(c)(8)**

Volvo will initiate a voluntary owner notification, and recall all affected vehicles as advised by Gunitite. The recall repair will consist of inspecting the slack adjuster for certain suspect lot number and mold line identifiers, with replacement if the information on the slack adjuster matches the suspect lot numbers and mold line identifiers provided by Gunitite.

The number, which has been assigned to this recall by Volvo, is **RVXX1103**.



Reimbursement for cost incurred by the owner for “prenotification remedies” will be addressed on a case-by-case basis according to the “General Plan for Reimbursement of Pre-notification Remedies” which was published December 8<sup>th</sup>, 2004.

A Safety Recall Alert will be released to dealers on or before May 9, 2011, which informs the dealers of the recall. Owner letters will be mailed on or before July 1, 2011. An advance copy of the owner letter will be submitted to NHTSA for review and approval prior to release to the owners.

If there are any questions regarding this information, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tim L. LaFon", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

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