

Safety Defect and Noncompliance Report Guide for Vehicles Part 573 Defect and Noncompliance Report¹

In March 2011 Altec Industries, Inc. decided that a condition which relates to motor vehicle safety exists in the motor vehicles listed below, and is furnishing notification to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration in accordance with 49 CFR Part 573 Defect and Noncompliance Responsibility and Reports.

Date this report was prepared: **May 9, 2011**

Furnish the manufacturer's identification code for this recall (if applicable): **CSN 544**

1. Identify the full corporate name of the fabricating manufacturer of the vehicle being recalled. If the recalled vehicle is imported, provide the name and mailing address of the designated agent as prescribed by 49 U.S.C. §30164.

Altec Industries, Inc.

Identify the corporate official, by name and title, whom the agency should contact with respect to this recall.

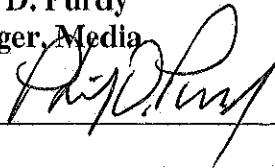
Joshua T. Chard
Director, Corporate and Product Safety

Telephone Number: **205-408-8627** Fax No.: **205-981-3733**

Name and Title of Person who prepared this report.

Philip D. Purdy
Manager, Media

Signed: _____



I. Identify the Vehicle Models Involved in the Recall

2. Identify the Vehicles Involved in the Recall, for each make and model or applicable vehicle line (provide illustrations or photographs as necessary to describe the vehicle), provide:

Make(s): Altec Model Years Involved: 2007-2009 Model(s): AT40M/P

Production Dates: Beginning: June, 2007 Ending: October, 2009

VIN Range: Beginning: N/A Ending: N/A

Vehicle Type: Aerial Device Bodystyle: N/A

Descriptive information which characterizes/distinguishes the recalled vehicles from those model vehicles not included in the recall:

This recall only affects AT40M/P aerial devices built between June 2007 and October 2009.

II. Identify the Recall Population

3. Furnish the total number of vehicles recalled potentially containing the defect or noncompliance.

<u>Model</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Number of Vehicles Potentially Involved</u>
AT40M/P	2007-2009	103

Total Number Potentially Affected by the Recall: **103**

4. Furnish the approximate percentage of the total number of vehicles estimated to actually contain the defect or noncompliance: **100%**

Identify and describe how the recall population was determined – in particular how the recalled models were selected and the basis for the beginning and final dates of manufacture of the recalled vehicles:

The recall population was determined by the serial number range of units built before the articulating arm link used on AT40M/P aerial devices was redesigned.

III. Describe the Defect or Noncompliance

5. Describe the defect or noncompliance. The description should address the nature and physical location of the defect or noncompliance. Illustrations should be provided as appropriate.

Altec has become aware of AT40M/P units not passing the annual dielectric test.

Describe the cause(s) of the defect or noncompliance condition.

The initial design of the link trapped moisture and steel shavings inside the link.

Describe the consequence(s) of the defect or noncompliance condition.

The combination of moisture and steel shavings can allow rust to breach the isolation gap which can prevent the unit from passing dielectric testing.

Identify any warning which can (a) precede or (b) occur.

Rust streaks may appear on the outer surface of the fiberglass link or the unit may not pass dielectric testing.

If the defect or noncompliance is in a component or assembly purchased from a supplier, identify the supplier by corporate name and address.

N/A

Identify the name and title of the chief executive officer or knowledgeable representative of the supplier:

N/A

IV. Provide the Chronology in Determining the Defect/Noncompliance

If the recall is for a defect, complete item 6, otherwise item 7.

6. With respect to a defect, furnish a chronological summary (including dates) of all the principle events that were the basis for the determination of the defect. The summary should include, but not be limited to, the number of reports, accidents, injuries, fatalities, and warranty claims.

In September 2009, Altec experienced dielectric failure of a new unit at the final assembly plant. Our investigation discovered that it was caused by the potential for metal shavings to be trapped inside the link. Altec redesigned the link with open ends in October 2009 to reduce the potential for trapped contaminants and moisture. Altec reviewed the machines in the field and did not find abnormal results. Field machines were passing their first annual dielectric test. As these were the unit's second successful tests since manufacture, the initial problem was considered isolated. Over the course of the next year Altec received a few reports of units not passing the annual dielectric test. The root cause similarly related to the sealed link design and Altec decided to move forward with the recall notification.

With respect to a noncompliance, identify and provide the test results or other data (in chronological order and including dates) on which the noncompliance was determined.

N/A

V. Identify the Remedy

7. A description of the manufacturer's program for remedying the defect or noncompliance. This program shall include a plan for reimbursing an owner or purchaser who incurred costs to obtain a remedy for the problem addressed by the recall within a reasonable time in advance of the manufacturer's notification of owners, purchasers and dealers, in accordance with §573.13 of this part. A manufacturer's plan may incorporate by reference a general reimbursement plan it previously submitted to NHTSA, together with information specific to the individual recall. Information required by §573.13 that is not in a general reimbursement plan shall be submitted in the manufacturer's report to NHTSA under this section. If a manufacturer submits one or more general reimbursement plans, the manufacturer shall update each plan every two years, in accordance with §573.13. The manufacturer's remedy program and reimbursement plans will be available for inspection by the public at NHTSA headquarters.

Altec will issue a recall (CSN 544) for all the affected AT40M/P aerial devices built before October 2009. The CSN directs owners to replace the articulating link. Altec will provide the parts and will reimburse the customer for labor to replace the link.

8. Furnish a description of the manufacturer's remedy for the defect or noncompliance. Clearly describe the differences between the recall condition and the remedy.

An open end link has been used in production since October 2009. This link will be provided as a replacement for units in the field with the sealed link design.

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

The new link is open at the ends.

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.

The production remedy is the same as the field remedy.

VI. Identify the Recall Schedule

9. Furnish a schedule or agenda (with specific dates) for notification to other manufacturers, dealers/retailers, and purchasers. Please, identify any foreseeable problems with implementing the recall.

Attached to this report is a draft of CSN 544. Once CSN 544 has been approved and returned, Altec will immediately mail it to the customers affected. There are no dealers/retailers affected.