

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

In July 2011, Altec Environmental Products, LLC (AEP) 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: July 26, 2011

Furnish the manufacturer's identification code for this recall (if applicable): MAB 547

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 Environmental Products, LLC (AEP)


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 Environmental Products** Model Years Involved: **2009-2011**

Model(s): **DC-912A, WC126A**

Production Dates: Beginning: **January, 2009** Ending: **July, 2011**

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

Vehicle Type: **Wood Chipper** Bodystyle: **N/A**

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

This recall affects AEP DC-912A, model wood chippers built between January 2009 and July 2011 and WC126A chippers produced with Al-Ko Kober axles.

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>
DC-912A	2009-2011	155
WC126A	2010-2011	55

Total Number Potentially Affected by the Recall:

DC-912A: 155

WC126A: 16

4. Furnish the approximate percentage of the total number of vehicles estimated to actually contain the defect or noncompliance: **100% for DC912A, 5% for WC126A**

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 units that were built with axles produced by AL-KO Kober.

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.

AEP has become aware of axle spindles that may fail due to material fatigue.

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

Fatigue Failures have occurred at a bearing grease hole located on the axle spindle.

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

The spindle on the axle could fail allowing the wheel to separate from the chipper

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

Inspection of the wheels/tires is part of the operator's pre-trip inspection.

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

**AL-KO Kober
21608 Protecta Drive
Elkhart, In 46516**

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

Larry Revelino, Vice President, Engineering

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 late May 2011, Altec Environmental Products, LLC (AEP) received a report of a DC-912A chipper with a broken axle spindle. In late June 2011, Altec Environmental received a second report of a failed axle spindle. Failed pieces were sent to AL-KO (the axle manufacturer) for analysis. This revealed fatigue failure beginning in the grease hole in the spindle. A third failure was reported on July 13. The failed pieces have not yet been received for analysis.

7. 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

8. 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.

AEP will issue a recall (MAB 547) for all the affected wood chippers. The MAB directs owners to immediately inspect the spindle and to replace the axle within 60 days. AEP will reimburse the customer for the labor to replace the axle. Additionally, any owners that replace axles prior to this notification will be reimbursed.

NOTE, this MAB will supersede and replace prior Altec recall notice CSN 543 (NHTSA 11V-238000)

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

The axle on all DC912A Chippers and selected WC126A Chipper axles will be replaced.

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

Replacement axles will have an increased spindle diameter 1.75 inches versus 1.38 inches.

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.

Current inventory of all AL-KO model H44 axles were segregated from production. These axles are being replaced with model H52 axles. H44 axles will be replaced with H52 axles in the field.

VI. Identify the Recall Schedule

10. 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 AEP's MAB 547. Once MAB 547 has been approved and returned, AEP will immediately mail it to the customers affected. There are no dealers/retailers affected.