

**Volvo Trucks North America**

September 1, 2011

Subject: Fontaine Ultra LT Fifth Wheel**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 manufactured from May 1, 2010 through January 31, 2011 with the Fontaine Ultra LT fifth.

The selection of vehicles was based on information provided by Fontaine.

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

Component Manufacturer:

Fontaine Fifth Wheel
7574 Commerce Circle
Trussville, 35173

573.6(c) (3)

There are two hundred ninety seven vehicles in total affected of which Fontaine has already repaired one hundred seventy eight of the vehicles. **The remainder, one hundred nineteen vehicles, will be addressed under this safety recall.**



573.6(c)(4)

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

573.6(c)(5)

According to Fontaine, “during the coupling process with the Ultra LT model fifth wheel it is possible for the driver to partially close the fifth wheel lock, and if solely relying on a tug test (pull test), may think that the fifth wheel lock is properly coupled to the trailer king pin when in fact it is not properly coupled.” If the driver drives away with a trailer that is not properly coupled, the trailer can come loose and potentially result in a vehicle accident.

573.6 (c)(6)

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

- 2/18/11 Fontaine contacts Volvo asking for vehicle identification numbers and customer contact information for vehicles manufactured with the Ultra LT fifth wheel
- 3/1/11 Fontaine releases a letter to NHTSA stating their intent to conduct a field program
- 3/8/11 Volvo receives a copy of the letter that Fontaine sent to NHTSA
- 7/5/11 NHTSA notifies Volvo of PE11-012, preliminary evaluation on Fontaine Ultra LT
- 8/4/11 Volvo requests VIN specific information from Fontaine showing the vehicles that have been addressed
- 9/1/11 Volvo informs NHTSA that a voluntary safety recall will be done to address the remainder of the vehicles not addressed by Fontaine’s field program

There are no warranty claims, customer complaints, or field reports.

573.6(c)(7)

Not applicable

573.6(c)(8)

Volvo will initiate a voluntary owner notification, and recall all affected vehicles that have not been repaired as advised by Fontaine. The recall repair will consist of replacing the lock bar.



The number, which has been assigned to this recall by Volvo, is **RVXX1106**.

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 8th, 2004.

A Safety Recall Alert will be released to dealers on or before September 8, 2011, which informs the dealers of the recall. Owner letters will be mailed on or before September 30, 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 horizontal line extending to the right.

Tim L. LaFon
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