



P.O. Box 150 • Ponca City, OK 74602-0150  
(580) 762-5646 • Fax (580) 767-8411

To: NHTSA

Date: 12<sup>th</sup> Dec, 2011

Subject: EQ11-004 Gunitite Slack Adjuster

This is being written to explain why Mertz did not file a 573 form within 5 days of finding out about the Gunitite Slack Adjuster.

- The truth is Mertz has never been through the process of a recall and did not understand the 573 form.
  - o We thought we were doing the right thing by taking any suspect part out of our inventory the same day we found out and the next couple days we sent people to our customer to remove any suspect material from trailer chassis.
  - o Our customer (Halliburton) also issued a service bulletin that same week to have all units identified as possible units with suspect slack adjusters, pulled in and checked.
  - o Mertz did fill out a 573 form once we knew what to do, but like you said it did not happen until several months passed by.
  - o Halliburton is still inspecting units in the field as they are able to pull them in from the job site of drilling oil/gas wells.

Thanks you

Roy Heath  
Engineering Manager  
(580)767-8465