



U.S. Department
of Transportation
**National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration**

1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

April 10, 2012

MR. JOE FUNKHOUSER
PRESIDENT
DAVIS EQUIPMENT CORPORATION
5225 NW BEAVER DRIVE
JOHNSTON, IA 50131

NVS-215lrd
12V-150

SUBJECT: BELT CONVEYOR NONCOMPLIANCE

DEAR MR. FUNKHOUSER:

This letter serves to acknowledge Davis Equipment Corporation's (DEC) notification to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) of a noncompliance with Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard No. 224 'Rear Impact Protection' for which a safety recall campaign which will be conducted pursuant to Federal law for the vehicles listed below.

Please review the following information to ensure that it conforms to your records as this information is being made available to the public. If the information does not agree with your records, please contact us immediately to discuss your concerns.

Makes/Models/Model Years:

MERRITT COMMODITY TRAILER/38' GRAIN HOPPER/2008-2011

NHTSA Campaign Number: 12V-150 **Mfg's Report Date:** February 22, 2012

Components: EQUIPMENT

Potential Number of Units Affected: 25

Summary:

DAVIS EQUIPMENT CORPORATION (DEC) IS RECALLING CERTAIN MODEL YEAR 2008-2011 MERRITT COMMODITY TRAILER 38' GRAIN HOPPERS. THE CONVEYOR BELT ON THESE VEHICLES EXTENDS OUT OF THE REAR OF THE TRAILER IN THE REAR IMPACT ZONE OF THE BACK WHEELS AND DOES NOT MEET THE REQUIREMENTS FOR REAR IMPACT PROTECTION.

Consequence:

IF A REAR IMPACT OCCURRED, IT IS POSSIBLE THAT THE FOLLOWING VEHICLE WOULD IMPACT THE CONVEYOR BEFORE IMPACTING THE TRAILER'S BUMPER, POSSIBLY RESULTING IN SERIOUS INJURY OR DEATH.

Remedy:

DEC WILL NOTIFY OWNERS, AND DEALERS WILL CORRECT THE REAR BUMPER PLACEMENT AS NECESSARY. THE REMEDY WILL BE PERFORMED FREE OF CHARGE. OWNERS MAY CONTACT DEC AT 1-515-270-8300.

Notes:

CUSTOMERS MAY CONTACT THE NATIONAL HIGHWAY TRAFFIC SAFETY ADMINISTRATION'S VEHICLE SAFETY HOTLINE AT 1-888-327-4236 (TTY: 1-800-424-9153); OR GO TO [HTTP://WWW.SAFERCAR.GOV](http://www.safercar.gov).

We have received your proposed owner notification letter and it is currently under review. You will be notified of any changes or concerns once our review is complete.

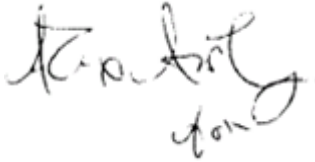
Please be reminded of the following requirements:

Copies of all notices, bulletins, dealer notifications, and other communications that relate to this recall, including a copy of the final owner notification letter and any subsequent owner follow-up notification letter(s), are required to be submitted to this office no later than 5 days after they are originally sent (if they are sent to more than one manufacturer, distributor, dealer, or purchaser/owner).

As stated in Part 573.7, submission of the first of six consecutive quarterly status reports is required within one month after the close of the calendar quarter in which notification to purchasers occurs. Therefore, the first quarterly report will be due on or before 30 days after the close of the calendar quarter.

Your contact for this recall will be Edison Thompson who may be reached by phone at 1-202-366-9525, or by email at Edison.Thompson@dot.gov, or through the office email at RMD.ODI@dot.gov. We look forward to working with you toward a successful completion of this recall campaign.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jennifer Timian". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and a long, sweeping underline.

Jennifer Timian
Chief, Recall Management Division
Office of Defects Investigation
Enforcement