



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

1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

June 15, 2012

MS. LOIS SLINGS
PRODUCT LIABILITY RISK MANAGER
VERMEER MANUFACTURING COMPANY
1210 VERMEER ROAD EAST
PELLA, IA 50219

NVS-2151rd
12V-260

SUBJECT: INCORRECT WELD OF MAINFRAME

DEAR MS. SLINGS:

This letter serves to acknowledge Vermeer Manufacturing Company (Vermeer) notification to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) of 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:
VERMEER/BC1500/2007-2012

NHTSA Campaign Number: 12V-260

Mfr's Report Date: June 8, 2012

Components: STRUCTURE:FRAME AND MEMBERS

Potential Number of Units Affected: 1,770

Summary:

VERMEER IS RECALLING CERTAIN MODEL YEAR 2007-2012 VERMEER BC1500 TRAILERS. DURING THE ASSEMBLY PROCESS, A SECTION OF THE MAIN FRAME MAY HAVE BEEN INCORRECTLY WELDED. AS A RESULT, BENDING OR FATIGUE FRACTURES CAN RESULT, LEADING TO FRAME FAILURE.

Consequence:

FRAME FAILURE MAY INCREASE THE RISK OF PERSONAL INJURY OR PROPERTY DAMAGE.

Remedy:

VERMEER WILL NOTIFY OWNERS, AND WILL REPAIR THE VEHICLES, FREE OF CHARGE. THE SAFETY RECALL IS EXPECTED TO BEGIN ON AUGUST 10, 2012. OWNERS MAY CONTACT VERMEER AT 641-628-3141.

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).

Vermeer's Defect Information Report states that a decision was made that a safety defect existed on February 21, 2012; however, you did not prepare the report for NHTSA until June 8, 2012. Under Federal law, this agency is to be notified of all safety defect and/or noncompliance decisions within five business days. (49 CFR 573.6) Significant civil penalties can be assessed for this violation. (49 U.S.C. 30165(a)(1)) Please explain, in writing, why Vermeer did not notify NHTSA and file its defect report within 5 business days and why penalties should not be assessed.

Please be reminded of the following requirements:

It is expected owners will be notified of a safety defect in their vehicles within 60 days of a manufacturer's notification to NHTSA of a safety defect in those vehicles.

You are required to submit a draft owner notification letter to this office no less than five days prior to mailing it to the customers. 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 fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

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