



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

1200 New Jersey Avenue SE  
Washington, DC 20590

June 29, 2012

MR. BLAS GONZALEZ  
REGIONAL MANAGER,  
FIELD SERVICE DEPARTMENT  
UTILITY TRAILER MANUFACTURING COMPANY  
17295 E. RAILROAD STREET  
CITY OF INDUSTRY, CALIFORNIA 91748

NVS-215et  
12V-298

**SUBJECT: BRAKE SYSTEM CHECK VALVE**

**DEAR MR. GONZALEZ:**

This letter serves to acknowledge Utility Trailer Manufacturing Company's (Utility) notification to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) of a safety noncompliance with Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard (FMVSS) No. 121, "Air brake systems," 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:**

UTILITY/VS2DX/2013

**NHTSA Campaign Number:** 12V-298

**Mfr's Report Date:** June 21, 2012

**Components:** SERVICE BRAKES, AIR SUPPLY: CHECK VALVE

**Potential Number of Units Affected:** 16

**Summary:**

UTILITY MANUFACTURING COMPANY (UTILITY) IS RECALLING CERTAIN MODEL YEAR 2013 UTILITY VS2DX DRY VANS MANUFACTURED FROM MAY 16, 2012, THROUGH JUNE 13, 2012. THE BRAKE SYSTEM CHECK VALVE WAS INSTALLED INCORRECTLY, CAUSING A DELAY IN BRAKE APPLICATION. THUS, THESE VEHICLES FAIL TO COMPLY WITH FEDERAL MOTOR VEHICLE SAFETY STANDARD NO. 121, "AIR BRAKE SYSTEMS."

**Consequence:**

A DELAY IN APPLICATION OF THE TRAILER BRAKES INCREASES THE STOPPING DISTANCE, INCREASING THE RISK OF A CRASH.

**Remedy:**

UTILITY HAS NOTIFIED OWNERS AND RETROFITTED THE AFFECTED VEHICLES, FREE OF CHARGE; THEREFORE, AN OWNER NOTIFICATION NOTICE WILL NOT BE ISSUED FOR THIS CAMPAIGN. OWNERS MAY CONTACT UTILITY TRAILER MANUFACTURING COMPANY AT 1-626-854-7215.

**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).

Under 49 U.S.C. § 30112(a), it is illegal for anyone, including a manufacturer, distributor, dealer, or retailer to sell an item of equipment or vehicle that fails to comply with all applicable Federal motor vehicle safety standards.

It is our understanding that notification to owners has already occurred, prior to our review of the owner notification letter. Every manufacturer is required to submit the proposed owner notification letter for our review at least five days prior to being mailed out. Should it become necessary for Utility to do a renotification, the follow-up notification must be submitted to this office for review and it must comply with the requirements of Part 577.5, "Notification pursuant to a manufacturer's decision" and Part 577.10, "Follow-up notification."

Please provide a copy of the owner notification letter that was mailed out.

Please submit one quarterly report stating a 100 percent completion rate.

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](mailto:Edison.Thompson@dot.gov), or through the office email at [RMD.ODI@dot.gov](mailto: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 horizontal stroke at the end.

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