

TIMKEN

Where You Turn

Rhonda Heakin
GM - Warranty & Risk Mgmt

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October 19, 2012

Associate Administrator for Enforcement
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

RE: Notice Pursuant to 49 C.F.R. 573.6
Non-Formed, Front Wheel Hub Unit
Timken Part Number: HA599467

The Timken Company (Timken) has learned that certain wheel hub units which it has sold to retail and automotive distributors in the automobile aftermarket as front wheel replacement hubs for certain 2002-2005, Non-ABS, Jeep Liberty vehicles, could be mistakenly installed on 4X2 versions of those vehicles, creating a risk to vehicle safety. The replacement hubs are not defective in design or manufacture and are appropriate when installed on 4X4 versions of the subject vehicles. However, the part number assigned to these replacement hub units could result in a hub unit being sold to an end user who intends to install it on a 4X2 version.

In accordance with 49 CFR § 573.6 Timken is providing the following information regarding these replacement hub units.

The trademark owner and supplier is The Timken Company. Corporate headquarters for The Timken Company are located at 1835 Dueber Ave. SW, Canton, Ohio 44706. Correspondence should be directed to the attention of Rhonda Heakin, General Manager - Warranty and Risk Management (rhonda.heakin@timken.com).

The items of motor vehicle equipment are non-formed, front wheel hub units with part number HA599467 (Non-Formed Hubs). There is a formed version of this wheel hub unit with the same part number that is appropriate for use on the 4X2 version of the vehicle. This notice concerns only the non-formed version.

The vehicles on which the Non-Formed Hubs could be installed in error are 2002-2005, 4X2, Non-ABS Jeep Liberty vehicles in the United States.

A Non-Formed Hub unit is designed to be retained by an axle nut on the front of the vehicle and is intended for 4X4, non-ABS vehicles. The clamp load applied by the axle nut retains the hub unit bearing to prevent separation. A 4X2 model vehicle does not use an axle nut and therefore the vehicle wheel will not be secure if the Non-Formed Hub is installed. The formed hub version of this part has a formed end which will retain the component on the vehicle.

The Timken Company

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Timken became aware of the situation when a customer notified Timken's customer service group that a retail customer had installed one of the Non-Formed Hubs on a 4X2 Jeep Liberty vehicle and the hub unit failed. There was no reported incident or wheel separation. The customer was given a replacement part.

The number of Non-Formed Hubs that could be improperly installed on a 4X2 vehicle is 426. This number was determined as follows: Timken acquired 1200 of the Non-Formed Hubs with the subject part number from its supplier. 892 were shipped to the market beginning on 12 April 2012. When Timken became aware of the circumstances which could lead to the installation error 308 units were promptly quarantined within the Timken distribution system. One retailer customer of Timken has returned 465 units after being notified by Timken to stop any retail sales and return all inventory. One unit is known to have been installed on a vehicle and was then returned to the retailer by the customer as being the wrong part. Please see the attached listing of the purchasers of the Non-Formed Hubs from Timken.

All Timken customers are being promptly notified and are being directed not to sell the part number in question and to return all inventory. A service bulletin has been issued by Timken to its customers of these Non-Formed Hub units. A copy is attached to this report.

Timken will reimburse its customers and support its customers for any warranty claims made by end users.

Sincerely,

Rhonda F. Heakin
General Manager - Warranty and Risk Management
The Timken Company