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12V-083
(3 Pages)

March 1, 2012

Nancy Lewis (NVS-215)
Associate Administrator for Enforcement
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington DC 20590

Vehicle Recall: Tag Axle Air Lines on Autocar Chassis

Dear Ms. Lewis,

McNeilus Truck and Manufacturing has decided that a defect which relates to motor vehicle safety exists in the motor vehicles listed below. We therefore furnish notification to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, in accordance with 49 CFR Part 573, Defect and Noncompliance Reports.

Manufacturer's Identification Code: **41-0967369**

1. Manufacturer's name/address:

McNeilus Truck and Manufacturing, Inc.
524 County Road 34 East
Dodge Center, MN 55927

Darryl Ash
Director-Sales and Branch Operations Support
(507) 374-8145
dash@mcneilusco.com

2. Vehicles or Equipment involved in this defect notification:

Autocar chassis with OEM equipped tag axles equipped with McNeilus refuse bodies, produced and shipped between 3/17/2011 and 2/10/2012.

3. Total number of vehicles or items of equipment:

111

4. Approximate percentage of vehicles or equipment estimated to actually contain the defect:

Less than 5%

5. Description of the defect:

The refuse truck manufacturing process may require that the tag axle on the chassis be removed. During removal there are two air lines that must be reinstalled back in the correct locations. If the air lines are reconnected incorrectly, the tag axle brakes will be applied when the tag axle is lifted, but will not function when the tag axle is lowered.

6. Chronological summary of events leading to this determination:

1/03/12 Autocar LLC Regional Manager notifies McNeilus of an issue at Republic Services in Chula Vista, CA. Refuse trucks supplied by McNeilus were identified as having no tag axle braking capability. The suspected cause was splicing airlines during the body mounting process.

1/05/12 McNeilus' investigation of complaint using 8D analysis failed to confirm Autocar's complaint.

2/10/12 Autocar, LLC, notifies McNeilus that Autocar's root cause investigation has indicated an issue with the McNeilus installation process.

2/11/12 Autocar, LLC provides further details on the specific brake line installation error.

2/13/12 McNeilus issued an internal Quality Alert to assemblers notifying them of the potential issue and providing detail on proper installation process.

2/14/12 Autocar Quality personnel visited McNeilus assembly operations to review assembly process.

2/17/12 McNeilus updated operator assembly work instructions to reflect details provided in the issued Quality Alert to enhance standardized work. McNeilus confirms pre-delivery inspection checks for the specific non-compliance.

7. Description of proposed remedy (including schedule for dealer and customer notification):

Air lines on affected units will be inspected. If the two air lines were installed incorrectly they will be removed and reinstalled in the correct orientation.

Dealer and Owner letters will be mailed by March 15 pending letter approval from NHTSA

8. Program for remedy campaign (including program for reimbursing any consumer who obtained the remedy at his/her own expense within one year of the opening of the EA, or within one year of this 573 report, whichever is earlier):

- Affected customers will be notified via certified mail.
- Most affected units will be inspected and repaired if required by McNeilus service technicians at the customer's facility.
- A small number of units will be inspected and repaired using the customer's own technicians. Owners will be reimbursed for inspection and labor costs by submitting a request to McNeilus.
- Although most units will be inspected and repaired by McNeilus staff, the notification mailing will include the Owner Notification Letter, a technical service bulletin that includes work instructions on how to identify the defect, and detailed instructions on how to repair affected units

9. Representative notices will be sent at a later date

Sincerely,
McNeilus Truck & Manufacturing, Inc.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Darryl Ash". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Darryl Ash
Director-Sales and Branch Operations Support