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12V-201
(3 Pages)



May 1, 2012

Associate Administrator for Safety Assurance (NSA-01)
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
1200 New Jersey Ave SE
Washington, DC 20590

Subject: Part 573 Defect and Noncompliance Report

Dear Sir or Madam:

A supplier, Meritor, has notified Featherlite Trailers that it has initiated a safety recall on certain axles supplied to Featherlite by Meritor, which has been installed on some of our trailers. Featherlite has determined that a defect, which relates to motor vehicle safety, exists in an item of motor vehicle equipment listed below, and is furnishing notification to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration in accordance with 49 CFR Part 573 Defect and Noncompliance Reports.

The manufacturer of the component to be recalled is Meritor, located at 2135 W. Maple Rd., Troy, MI 48084. Their Safety Recall Campaign Number is 12E-015. We have been in contact with Meritor and are supplying them with a list of trailers and owner information. Meritor is conducting the recall on the units installed in our trailers and are supplying us with information as to what units have been repaired. A total of one hundred fifty three (153) trailers were identified as potentially having the recalled units.

The contact at Featherlite, Inc. for Featherlite's recall of this component is:

Bruce A. McConnell, Customer Service Manager
Featherlite, Inc.
P.O. Box 320
Cresco, IA 52136-0320
Phone: 319-547-6000, ext. 1052
Fax: 319-547-6100
e-mail: bmccconnell@fthr.com

Further information, as required, is included in the attachments to this notification.

Sincerely,

Bruce A. McConnell
Customer Service Manager

CORPORATE OFFICE

563.547.6000
toll free: 800.800.1230

fax: 563.547.6099
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Hwy. 63 & 9, P.O. Box 320
Cresco, IA 52136

Arvin Meritor Recall of Arvin Meritor Axles

I. Identification of Recalled Items

Generic name of item: Meritor
Description: Axles
Part numbers: TL8671LE2062 & TL8671LE2082
Function: Running gear on trailers

II. Identifying the Recall Population

Item: Meritor Axles

Total number. Potentially involved: 306 (Installed on Featherlite trailers)

Estimated percentage containing the defect: 100%

How was recall determined: Notification by Meritor

Beginning and final dates recalled items were used in manufacture: 01/01/03 to 10/07/10

III. Describe Defect or Noncompliance

Describe defect: While implementing the repair for recall actions 10E-057 and 11E-015, Meritor determined that the subject TL axles may exhibit the following conditions.

- False shoulder- road debris not removed during the original repair procedure can create a false shoulder on the seal journal. This condition can interfere with the seal journal, leading to seal wear, water ingress and bearing distress.
- Lack of Lubrication- Insufficient grease being packed in the hub during the original repair procedure can lead to un-lubricated wheel seals which, in turn, can then lead to seal wear, water ingress and bearing distress.

Describe cause of defect: Improper repair by Meritor.

Describe consequence of defect condition: This can lead to field performance issues, including a wheel separation, which could lead to loss of vehicle control, property damage and/or personal injury.

Identity of supplier who furnished the component and CEO name:

Meritor
2135 W. maple Rd.
Troy, MI 48084
Mr. Charles McClure, CEO

IV. Chronology in Determining the Defect

Featherlite was notified by Fed-EX by Meritor on April 30, 2012 of the recall. We are furnishing Meritor with trailer serial numbers and the owner information of the trailers as soon as the information is gathered.

V. Identify the Remedy

The remedy for the defect is to replace all hubs on axles that have not had the TL hubs replaced as per recall actions 10E-057 and 11E-015 and a new repair procedure followed. Any axle that has had the TL hubs will just have the new repair procedure done.

VI. Identify the Recall Schedule

Initial notification to retail purchasers and registered owners. May 7, 2012

Meritor is conducting the actual recall.

VII. Furnish Recall Communications

Drafts of the notification documents are attached.