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Via Email: RMD.ODI@dot.gov

To: Defects and Recall Information Analysis Division
Associate Administrator for Safety Assurance
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
400 7th Street, SW
Washington DC 20590

PART 573 Defect and Noncompliance Report

Report Date: June 22, 2012

On March 29, 2012, Vermeer Manufacturing Company, d/b/a Vermeer Corporation, determined that there is a defect which relates to motor vehicle safety with respect to certain motor vehicles listed below, and is furnishing notification to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration in accordance with 49 CFR Part 573 Defect and Noncompliance Reports.

1. Fabricating Manufacturer:

Vermeer Manufacturing Company, d/b/a Vermeer Corporation
1210 Vermeer Road East
Pella, IA 50219

Telephone: 641-628-3141 **Fax:** 641-621-7739

Contact Name and Title: Lois Slings
Product Liability Risk Manager

Name and Title of Person Who Prepared Report: Tom Haley
Product Safety Engineering Manager

Signed: Tom Haley Date: June 22, 2012



PART 573 Defect and Noncompliance Report

Report Date: June 8, 2012

I. Identify the Vehicle Models Involved in the Recall

2. **Manufacturer's Identification Code:** IK00-1718

3. **Vehicle Identification:**

Make:	Vermeer	Model Years Involved:	2010-2012	
Model(s):	R9X12T			
Production Dates:	Beginning:	03/01/2010	Ending:	05/05/2012
VIN Range:	Beginning:	1VRB533B9A1	Ending:	1VRB533B3C1
Vehicle Type:	Trailer – Triple axle drilling fluid reclaimer			

Description which characterizes/distinguishes the recalled vehicles from those model vehicles not included in the recall: The VIN Ranges include 14 units.

Identify the approximate percentage of the production of all the recalled models manufactured by your company between the inclusive dates of manufacture provided above, that the recalled model population represents. For example, if the recall involved Widgets equipped with certain items of equipment from January 1, 1996 through April 1, 1997, then what was the percentage of the recalled Widgets of all Widgets manufactured during that time period.

100%

II. Identify the Recall Population

4. **Total Number of Vehicles Recalled Potentially containing the defect or noncompliance:**

Model	Year	Number of Vehicles Potentially Involved
R9X12T	2010	5
R9X12T	2011	6
R9X12T	2012	3
Total Number Potentially Affected by the Recall:		<hr/> 14

5. **Approximate percentage of Total Number of Vehicles Estimated to actually contact the defect or noncompliance:**

100%

Identify and describe how the recall population was determined, in particular how the recalled models were selected and the basis for the beginning and final dates of manufacture of the recalled vehicles: From manufacturing records, we were able to determine the 14 units were built with the same axle configuration.

III. Describe the Defect or Noncompliance

6. **Describe the defect or noncompliance. The description should address the nature and physical location of the defect or noncompliance. Illustrations should be provided as appropriate.**

Model R9X12T drilling fluid reclaimer units, S/N 101 - 114, are equipped with slack adjusting air brakes. Full travel of the axle could result in damage to this arm, reducing the slack adjusting capabilities of the brake system.

A copy of a product brochure for Vermeer Model BC1500 (Exhibit A) is attached for your reference.

Describe the cause(s) of the defect or noncompliance condition.

Inadequate design clearance between the slack adjuster arm and the trailer frame.

Describe the consequence(s) of the defect or noncompliance condition.

Over time, one or more of the brakes could lose its braking capacity due to the deflected slack adjuster arm.

Identify any warning which can (a) precede or (b) occur.

(a) Extended trailer stopping distance.

(b)

If the defect or noncompliance is in a component or assembly purchased from a supplier, identify the supplier by corporate name and address.

Not applicable.

Identify the name and title of the chief executive officer or knowledgeable representative of the supplier.

Not applicable.

IV. Provide the Chronology in Determining the Defect/Noncompliance

If the recall is for a defect, complete item 6, otherwise item 7.

7. **With respect to a defect, furnish a chronological summary (including dates) of all the principle events that were the basis for the determination of the defect. The summary should include, but not be limited to, the number of reports, accidents, injuries, fatalities, and warranty claims.**

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- 20 MAR 2012 **First field notification** – Vermeer factory trenchless service department received the first field notification from the dealership, Vermeer Canada – Edmonton, Alberta, Canada. The notification regarded damage to the R9X12T, VIN 1VRB533B0A1 . Photo of the axle damage is attached as Exhibit B. Additional photos were requested
- 22 MAR 2012 Additional photos of axle damage on R9X12T, VIN 1VRB533B0A1 , were received. See attached Exhibit C.
- 27 MAR 2012 Vermeer trenchless engineering department requested additional information regarding failure from the dealer in Edmonton, Canada.
- 29 MAR 2012 Vermeer determined that a defect existed in the clearance between the slack adjuster arm and frame. Initial solutions to repair the defects were discussed but issue required further investigation and research.
- 02 APR 2012 Vermeer trenchless engineering department developed potential repair solution for R9X12T, VIN 1VRB533B0A1 and sent parts to dealer for installation.
- 30 APR 2012 Repair of R9X12T, VIN 1VRB533B0A1 completed confirming design solution.
- 04 MAY 2012 Dealer in Edmonton, Canada provided photos of the repair to Vermeer trenchless engineering.

One field notification of this issue has been received. No warranty claims have been submitted to Vermeer Corporation.

With respect to a noncompliance, identify and provide the test results or other data (in chronological order and including dates) on which the noncompliance was determined.

Not applicable.

Furnish a description of the manufacturer's remedy for the defect or noncompliance. Clearly describe the differences between the recall condition and the remedy.

The engineering team has completed an axle replacement design to re-orientate the position of the slack adjuster arm in respect to the axle.

Clearly describe the distinguishing characteristics of the remedy component/assembly versus the recalled component/assembly.

Field repair kit is currently under development. The replacement axle shows adequate clearance between the slack adjuster arm and frame.

Identify and describe how and when the recall condition was corrected in production. If the production remedy was identical to the recall remedy in the field, so state. If the product was discontinued, so state.

The shipment of R9X12T drilling fluid reclaimers from the factory have included the new replacement axles. The new design has been released to production and is the same design as the field kit modification.

VI. Identify the Recall Schedule

Furnish a schedule or agenda (with specific dates) for notification to other manufacturers, dealers/retailers, and purchasers. Please, identify any foreseeable problems with implementing the recall.

TO BE DETERMINED: Complete development of field modification kit, including fabrication of replacement parts and installation instructions.

TO BE DETERMINED: Factory will publish Service Bulletin and Kit Instructions to dealers introducing field modification kit via company-to-dealer website.

TO BE DETERMINED: Factory will provide listing of affected units in their area to dealers via fax and/or email.

TO BE DETERMINED: Factory will notify owners of mandatory field modification via certified/registered US mail.

VII. Furnish Recall Communications

11. Furnish a final copy of all notices, bulletins, and other communications that relate directly to the defect or noncompliance and which are sent to more than one manufacturer, distributor, or purchaser. This includes all communications (including both original and follow-up) concerning this recall from the time your company determines the defect or noncompliance condition on, not just the initial notification. *A DRAFT copy of the notification documents should be submitted to this office by Fax (202-366-7882) or by E-Mail to RMD.ODI@dot.gov for review prior to mailing.*

Note that these documents are to be submitted separately from those provided in accordance with Part 579.5 requirements.