

**PART 573 Defect and Noncompliance Reporting****Defect Report**

**Report Date:** July 30, 2012

**1. Vehicles affected are manufactured by:**

Cottrell, Inc.  
2125 Candler Road  
Gainesville, GA 30507

The component part at issue, TL Axles, were manufactured by:

Meritor, Inc. (formerly known as ArvinMeritor)  
2135 W. Maple Road  
Troy, MI 48084

**2. The following vehicles are being recalled:**

Make: Cottrell  
Model: All Models of Cottrell Trailers  
Model Years: 2006-2011

Cottrell auto-transport trailers containing TL trailer axles manufactured and supplied by Meritor to Cottrell from April 2005 through October 2010, as previously identified by Meritor and supplied to NHTSA. See also Cottrell's January 19, 2011 letter to NHTSA regarding same, a copy of which has been previously provided along with the VIN listing of Cottrell trailers at issue in this Recall.

**3. The total number of vehicles subject to recall:**

1,767 at present.

**4. The approximate percentage of vehicles from #3 above estimated to actually be affected:**

100%.

**5. Description of the defect:**

As described by the component manufacturer, Meritor, a defect exists in certain FAG brand bearing units supplied by Schaeffler Group USA, Inc. and assembled into Meritor TL Series trailer axles. The FAG brand unitized bearing system has exhibited low durability life in certain vehicle applications. Prolonged use of the system in these applications can result in degradation of the bearing grease, thereby potentially resulting in a bearing failure and subsequent wheel-end fire.

**6. The following data is the basis for the determination to recall these vehicles:**

- a. 01/11/2011- Notification Letter from Meritor.
- b. 01/19/2011- Sent Letter to NHTSA (copy attached) relating to Meritor's 1/11/11 Notification Letter.
- c. 01/19/2011 through Present – Cottrell provided customer notification/contact information to Meritor, including updates as determined, so as to allow Meritor to notify Cottrell customers at issue per agreement, and Cottrell also worked with Meritor to effectuate repairs and replacements pursuant to Meritor instructions.
- d. 12/12/2011 – Received Explanation/Request from NHTSA that Cottrell file a 573 Defect Report separate from that of Meritor, even though the component at issue is an Meritor product, and Meritor is handling the recall/customer notifications etc.
- e. 12/16/2011 Submitted 573 Defect Notice as Requested by NHTSA.
- f. 2d Quarter 2012 – Meritor notified Cottrell of a revised remedy for the subject recall.
- g. 7/27/2012 – Cottrell became aware from NHTSA that Cottrell needed to submit another 573 Defect Report containing the new remedy.
- h. 7/30/2012 Submitted New 573 Defect Notice as Requested by NHTSA, along with a proposed customer letter for approval.

**7. The remedy:**

As described by the component manufacturer, Meritor, owners of trailers originally equipped with suspect axles have been notified by Meritor (with a copy of said notification on Cottrell's website as well) to bring the trailer to an appropriate service facility for hub replacement. The original TL type hub will be replaced with a conventional design hub as the remedy. The conventional designed hub assembly will require at a minimum an annual inspection and lubrication replacement.

**8. Notification:**

As per agreement, and as set forth herein, Cottrell supplied Meritor with the contact information needed to notify all Cottrell customers whose products have been identified as being subject to this Recall, and Meritor is handling the customer notifications. Cottrell continues to work with Meritor with regard to said notifications/contact information, as well as with regard to the repairs/replacements related to this Recall. Cottrell is submitting herewith a proposed customer letter which, once approved by NHTSA, will be distributed to affected customers by Meritor based on Cottrell's customer listing. Meritor tracks the units that have had the recall work done via an on-line system, and as such, Meritor will be responsible for any subsequent reports required by NHTSA.

**9. Cottrell will use the identification number assigned by NHTSA for this recall, to be the same as or cross-referenced with NHTSA/Meritor Recall Nos. 10E-057 and 11E-015.**

**10. Questions regarding this recall should be directed to:**

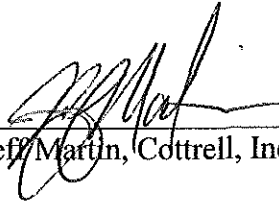
a. Meritor Contact:

Jeremy Tertzakian  
Meritor, Inc.  
2135 W. Maple Road  
Troy, MI 48084  
(248) 273-4641

b. Cottrell Contact:

Jeff Martin  
Cottrell, Inc.  
2125 Candler Road  
Gainesville, GA 30507  
(678) 677-8235

**Report Submitted by:**

  
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Jeff Martin, Cottrell, Inc.