

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: August 3, 2012

On August 1, 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:  **Date:** August 3, 2012

I. Identify the Vehicle Models Involved in the Recall

2. **Manufacturer's Identification Code:** IK00-1732

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3. Vehicle Identification:

Make:	Vermeer	Model Years Involved:	2012	
Units Involved (Estimated)				
Model	Production Dates		VIN Range	
	Beginning	Ending	Beginning	Ending
BC1200XL	04/16/2012	07/23/2012	1VR7141Y6C1	1VR7141Y4C1
			1VR7141Y8C1	1VR7141Y2C1
Vehicle Type:	Trailer – Single axle brush chipper			

Description which characterizes/distinguishes the recalled vehicles from those model vehicles not included in the recall: The VIN Range includes 40 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
BC1200XL	2012	40
Total Number Potentially Affected by the Recall:		<hr/> 40

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:

Using various manufacturing documents and drawings, as well as personnel records, research was conducted to determine specific time periods when the wheel mounting lug nuts may not have been properly torqued during the manufacturing process. Those specific time periods were cross-referenced to the build dates and serial number ranges of brush chippers built.

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.**

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

Manufacturing personnel on the BC1200XL assembly line did not use a calibrated torque wrench to tighten the lug nuts.

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

Lug nuts could loosen, resulting in wheel separation from the brush chipper.

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

- (a) Loose or missing lug nuts
- (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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01-AUG-2012: Manufacturing personnel reported the issue to the Environmental Service Department. Environmental Service confirmed it was an issue that needed correction, and then contacted Product Safety staff to advise them of the potential issue of the lug nuts not being tightened with a torque wrench. Product Safety concluded that a manufacturing error had occurred and a safety campaign will be issued. Tasks were assigned to put additional processes in place to ensure correct torque on future production units and to begin development of service bulletin and field kit instructions.

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.

Tighten the lug nuts to proper torque specification.

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

Dealers will be instructed to tighten lug nuts to proper torque specification.

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.

Manufacturing personnel have been advised of the issue. Further training and instructions were provided to torque the lug nuts to required specification with correct tools. Additional visual training documents will be provided to manufacturing personnel.

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.

- 09-AUG-2012: Complete development of and writing field modification instructions.
- 14-AUG-2012: Manufacturer will publish Service Bulletin and Kit Instructions to dealers introducing field modification kit via company-to-dealer website.
- 14-AUG-2012: Manufacturer will provide listing of affected units in the dealer's area via fax and/or email.
- 21-AUG-2012: Manufacturer 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.