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Recall A-1202: Seat Belt Retractor & Bracket Interference

12V-394
3 Pages
Amended

16 August 2012

Associate Administrator for Enforcement
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
Attn: Recall Management Division (NVS-215)
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

Re: Report Pursuant to 49 CFR 573.6
Autocar, LLC Recall No. A-1202

The following information is in accordance with the requirements of 49 CFR Part 573.6 as it applies to a defect relating to motor vehicle safety.

573.6(c)(1): The manufacturer's name

Autocar, LLC ("Autocar").

573.6(c)(2): Identification of the vehicles including a description of the manufacturer's basis for its determination of the recall population

Autocar has identified a defect in 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011 and 2012 model-year Xpeditor model heavy-duty class 8 vehicles built by Autocar between 17 December 2007 and 10 July 2012, with serial numbers in the range 206732 through 214815. The defect occurs in the vehicles equipped with a right-hand ("passenger-side") Bostrom® air-ride seat due to an incorrect bracket installed.

573.6(c)(3): The total number of vehicles or items of equipment potentially containing the defect

681 vehicles are potentially affected.

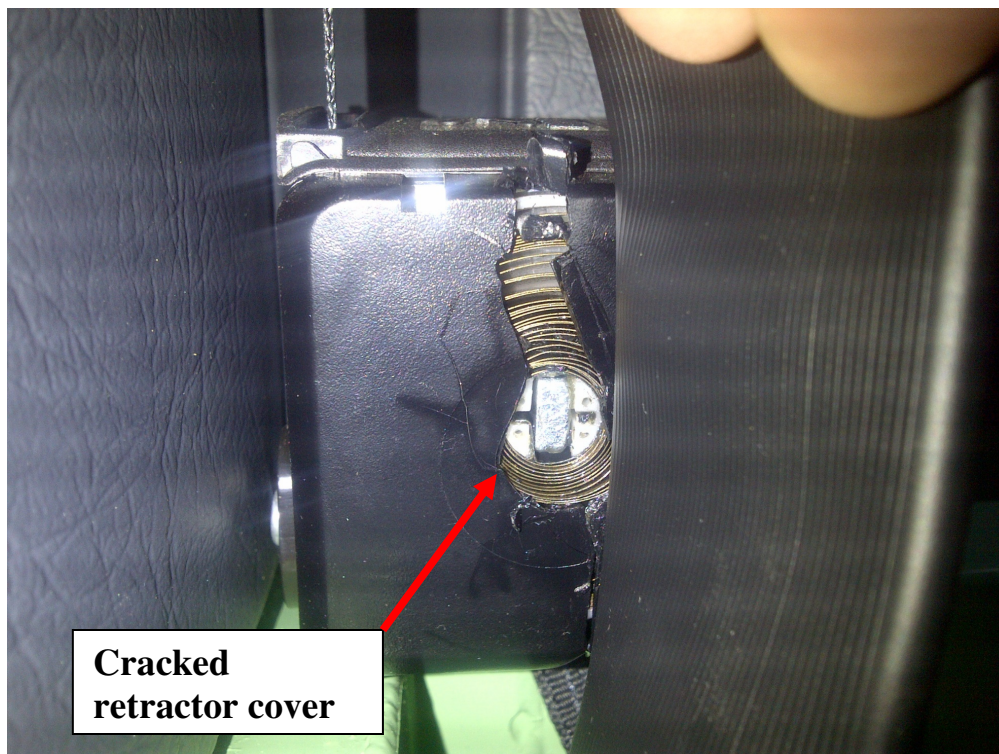
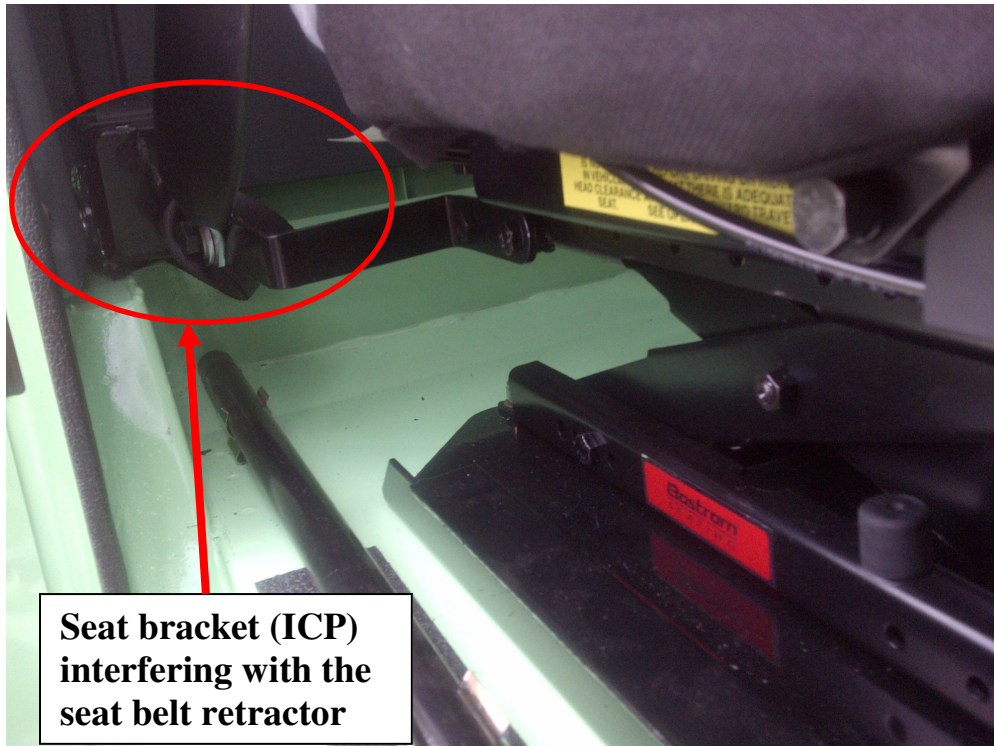
573.6(c)(4): The percentage of vehicles or items of equipment estimated to actually contain the defect or noncompliance

100% of the 681 vehicles are affected.

573.6(c)(5): A description of the defect or noncompliance, including both a brief summary and a detailed description, with graphic aids as necessary, of the nature and physical location (if applicable) of the defect or noncompliance

Autocar has determined that in certain vehicles equipped with a right-hand Bostrom® air-ride seat, the seatbelt and tether intermediate connection point (ICP) located on the seat bracket may interfere with the seatbelt retractor mechanism as the seat is pneumatically adjusted for height. Over time, the interference may cause the retractor cover to crack, allowing the retractor spring to become loose and inoperable. In the event of a vehicle crash, the vehicle occupant may not be properly restrained, possibly resulting in personal injury or death. Affected vehicles may fail to satisfy the requirements of federal motor vehicle safety standard no. 208, "Occupant crash protection."

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573.6(c)(6) and (7): A chronology of all principal events that were the basis for the determination that the defect related to motor vehicle safety

23 JUL 2012 Autocar found the issue during a routine vehicle audit.

24 JUL 2012 - Autocar audited vehicles in the plant and found more affected units.
25 JUL 2012

26 JUL 2012 Autocar contacted the seat assembly supplier to investigate and identify the root cause.

31 JUL 2012 The supplier identified the incorrect seat bracket installed to be the root cause.

03 AUG 2012 Autocar decided to initiate a recall.

573.6(c)(8)(i): A description of the manufacturer's program for remedying the defect or noncompliance

Autocar will voluntarily initiate an owner notification and recall of all affected vehicles. Autocar will distribute to owners of affected vehicles an Owner Notification Letter which will describe the defect and provide instructions for scheduling repair of the vehicle, at no cost to the vehicle's owner.

573.6(c)(8)(ii): The estimated date(s) on which it will begin sending notifications to owners, and to dealers and distributors

03 AUG 2012 Autocar decided to initiate a recall.

10 AUG 2012 573.6 letter to be sent to NHTSA.

20 AUG 2012 Owner notification letter to be sent to NHTSA for approval.

04 SEP 2012 Repair bulletin to be distributed by Autocar.

05 SEP 2012 Owner notification letter and recall response card to be sent to vehicle owners.

573.6(c)(9):

Not Applicable.

573.6(c)(11): The manufacturer's campaign number, if not identical to the identification number assigned by NHTSA

Autocar's campaign number assigned to this recall is A-1202.

Very truly yours,

Ms. Kanupriya Arora
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