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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: August 31, 2012

On August 27, 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: 31-Aug-2012

Date: 

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I. Identify the Vehicle Models Involved in the Recall

2. **Manufacturer's Identification Code:** IK00-1736

3. **Vehicle Identification:**

| | | | | |
|--------------------------|--|------------------------------|-----------|-------------|
| Make: | Vermeer | Model Years Involved: | 2010-2012 | |
| Model(s): | R9X12T | | | |
| Production Dates: | Beginning: | 03/01/2010 | Ending: | 08/03/2012 |
| VIN Range: | Beginning: | 1VRB533B9A1 | Ending: | 1VRB533B0C1 |
| 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 18 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 | 7 |
| Total Number Potentially Affected by the Recall: | | <hr/> 18 |

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 18 units were built with the same air brake hose 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 - 118, are equipped with air brakes. It was determined that manufacturing tolerances may result in interference between the air brake hoses and the frame cross-member at the rear axle after the installation of the IK001718 (NHTSA 12V-291) safety campaign. The air brake hose may become pinched during axle travel or could result in damage to the air brake hoses resulting in the loss of air pressure to the air brakes.

A copy of a product brochure for Vermeer Model R9x12T (Exhibit A) is attached for your reference.

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

Inadequate design clearance between the air brake line and the trailer cross-member.

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

Over time, the air brake lines could become damaged resulting in loss of air pressure to the air brake system resulting in loss of service brakes.

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

(a) Extended time to energize trailer air brake reservoirs, audible air loss from the system.

(b) Extended trailer stopping distance, park brakes that intermittently apply.

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.

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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.**

- 22 AUG 2012 **First field notification** – Vermeer factory trenchless service department received the first field notification from the dealership, Vermeer Texas – Kilgore, TX. The notification regarded interference of air brake hoses to the rear axle and the frame cross-member on the R9X12T, VIN 1VRB533B8B1000110. Photo of the air brake hose interference is attached as Exhibit B.
- 23 AUG 2012 Vermeer trenchless engineering started the evaluation of the design and the manufacturing tolerances.
- 27 AUG 2012 Vermeer determined that the clearance between the air brake hose and frame cross-member with the installation of IK001718 (NHTSA 12V-291) safety campaign was insufficient and a potential safety hazard existed.
- 29 AUG 2012 Vermeer trenchless engineering developed potential repair solution for R9x12T, VIN 1VRB533B9C1000117, and installed the parts. The repair has been completed confirming the design solution.

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 is evaluating air hose brake routing to eliminate the interference between the air brake hose and the rear axle frame cross-member.

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

Field repair kit is currently under development.

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 air brake hose routing. 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.

13 SEPT 2012: Complete development of field modification kit, including fabrication of replacement parts and installation instructions.

20 SEPT 2012: Factory will publish Service Bulletin and Kit Instructions to dealers introducing field modification kit via company-to-dealer website.

20 SEPT 2012: Factory will provide listing of affected units in their area to dealers via fax and/or email.

27 SEPT 2012: 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.