



12V-588
(3 pages)

Recall A-1205: Hayes Lemmerz Steel Wheels

14 December 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-1205
In Response to NHTSA Recall No. 12E-044

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 2012 and 2013 model-year Xpeditor model heavy-duty class 8 vehicles built by Autocar between 13 March 2012 and 29 November 2012, with serial numbers in the range 214008 through 215308. The defect occurs in the steel wheels of the vehicles due to a production issue at the supplier's plant. Autocar based its determination of the vehicle range on the wheel supplier's reported time line of delivery of the affected wheels commencing 13 March 2012 with a wheel part number 90262 and wheel assembly date codes of A030512, B030512, A030612, B030612, A030712, B030712, A030812, B030812, A030912 and B030912.

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

222 vehicles are potentially affected.

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

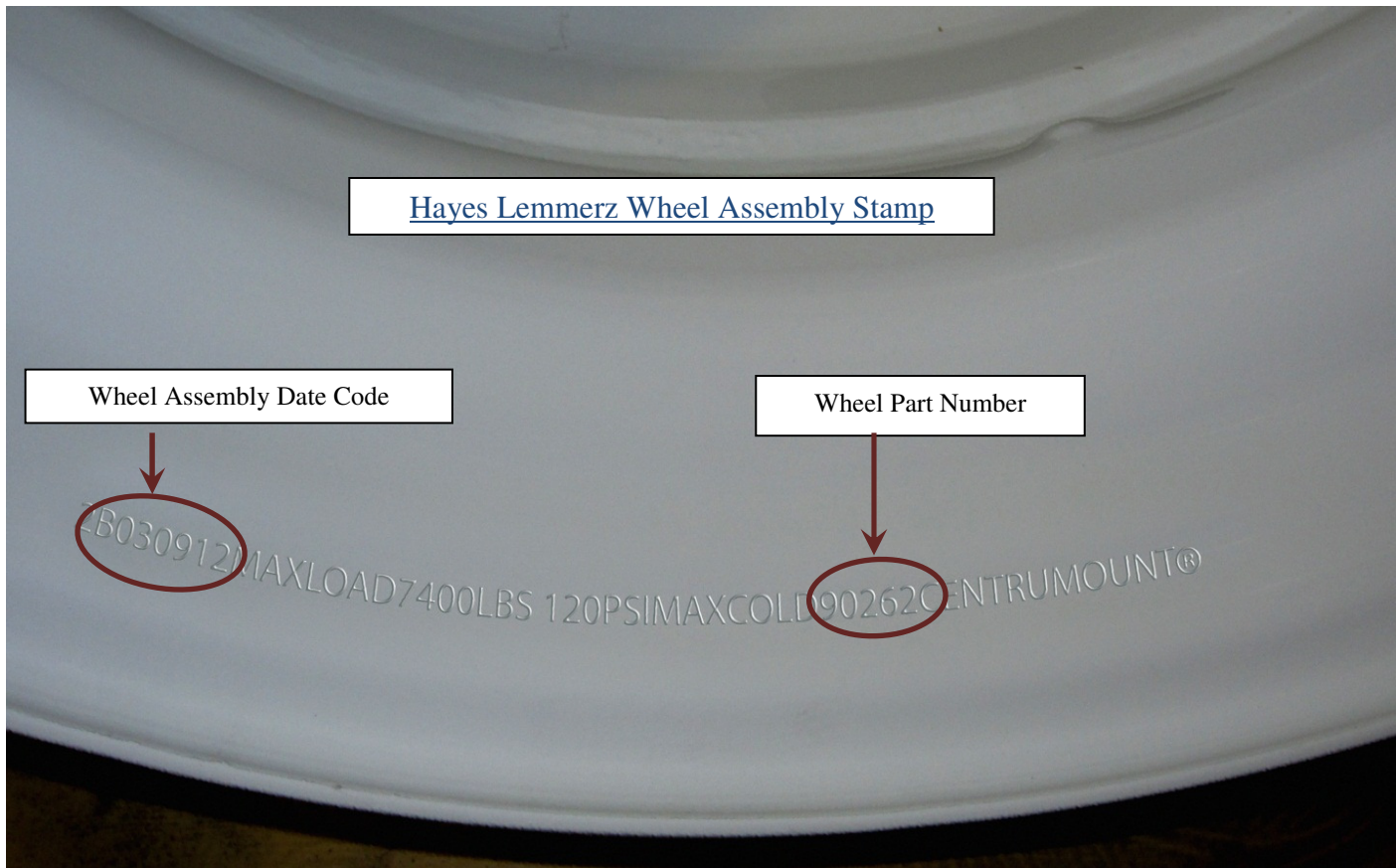
An estimated 75% of the 222 vehicles are affected.

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

Hayes Lemmerz has informed Autocar that with regard to the affected steel wheels: *A production issue resulted in reduced weld fusion between the disc and rim. As a consequence, these wheels may be susceptible to separation of the disc from the rim component when installed on the steer axle of commercial highway trucks, due to the lateral loads these wheels experience in this application. If such a failure occurs, the vehicle may experience shimmy or vibration in the steering wheel and the vehicle may become difficult to steer. Other evidence of the defect could be a rattling sound from the front of the vehicle. The separated wheel components could damage the adjacent wheel end, suspension or body panel components, which may increase the risk of a vehicle crash.*

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The wheel part number and assembly date code are located on the inner side of the rim opposite the wheel mounting face, as shown in the photograph below:



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

- 06 DEC 2012 The supplier contacted Autocar and notified the Quality department about the issue.
- 11 DEC 2012 Autocar implemented the containment and replacement recommended by the supplier for vehicles within its control.
- 12 DEC 2012 Autocar decided to initiate a recall for vehicles in the field.

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. In conjunction with the steel wheel supplier, 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

- 12 DEC 2012 Autocar decided to initiate a recall.
- 13 DEC 2012 573.6 letter to be sent to NHTSA.
- 25 JAN 2012 Owner notification letter to be sent to NHTSA for approval.
- 11 FEB 2013 Repair bulletin to be distributed by Autocar.
- 12 FEB 2013 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-1205.

Very truly yours,

Ms. Kanupriya Arora
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