



U.S. Department of Transportation
**National Highway Traffic Safety
Administration**

1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

February 4, 2013

Mr. Francis Smidler
Manager, Research and Development Engineering
Stoughton Trailers, LLC
416 South Academy Street
Stoughton, WI 53589

NVS-215KS
13V-025

Subject: Structure Fatigue Cracks

Dear Mr. Smidler:

This letter serves to acknowledge Stoughton Trailers, LLC's notification to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) of a safety recall which will be conducted pursuant to Federal law for the product(s) listed below. Please review the following information to ensure that it conforms to your records as this information is being made available to the public. If the information does not agree with your records, please contact us immediately to discuss your concerns.

Makes/Models/Model Years:
STOUGHTON/AHV/2009-2011

Mfr's Report Date: January 22, 2013

NHTSA Campaign Number: 13V-025

Components:
STRUCTURE

Potential Number of Units Affected: 1,115

Problem Description:

Stoughton Trailers is recalling certain model year 2009-2011 AHV grain hauler/ag hopper trailers produced December 17, 2007, through October 28, 2010. These trailers may develop fatigue cracks in the lower rail of the frame structure and/or in the front attachment of the suspension subframe channels.

Consequence:

Structural cracks could eventually compromise the structure and lead to failure. This could result in a loss of vehicle control, increasing the risk of a crash.

Remedy:

Stoughton Trailers will notify owners and will replace the suspension subframe front attachments as well as the crossmember assembly forward of the front hopper, free of charge. The recall is expected to begin by April 2013. Owners may contact Stoughton Trailers at 1-608-873-2555.

Notes:

Owners may also contact the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration Vehicle Safety Hotline at 1-888-327-4236 (TTY 1-800-424-9153), or go to www.safercar.gov.

Stoughton's defect information report states that owners and dealers will begin to be notified within 90 days. Please be reminded that it is expected that all owners will be notified of a safety defect in their vehicles within 60 days of a manufacturer's notification to NHTSA of a safety defect in those vehicles. You are required to submit a draft owner notification letter to this office no less than five days prior to mailing it to the customers.

Please be reminded of the following requirements:

Copies of all notices, bulletins, dealer notifications, and other communications that relate to this recall, including a copy of the final owner notification letter and any subsequent owner follow-up notification letter(s), are required to be submitted to this office no later than 5 days after they are originally sent (if they are sent to more than one manufacturer, distributor, dealer, or purchaser/owner).

As stated in Part 573.7, submission of the first of six consecutive quarterly status reports is required within one month after the close of the calendar quarter in which notification to purchasers occurs. Therefore, the first quarterly report will be due on, or before, 30 days after the close of the calendar quarter.

Your contact for this recall will be Kelly Schuler who may be reached by phone at (202) 366-5227, or by email at kelly.schuler@dot.gov or through the office email at rmd.odi@dot.gov. We look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jennifer Timian". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Jennifer Timian
Chief, Recall Management Division
Office of Defects Investigations
Enforcement