

### SAFETY DEFECT NOTIFICATION PURSUANT TO 49 C.F.R. PART 573

Wheel Pros, LLC 5347 S Valentia Suite #200 Greenwood Village, CO 80111

October 15, 2013

BY ELECTRONIC MAIL (<u>rmd.odi@dot.gov</u>) and CERTIFIED U.S. MAIL

To: Ms. Nancy Lummen Lewis
Associate Administrator for Enforcement
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Wheel Pros, LLC has decided to voluntarily recall certain Moto Metal brand, Model MO909 8-lug wheels and is submitting the following information in accordance with the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's defect reporting regulations, 49 CFR part 573.6.

### **Product Identification**

This recall involves aftermarket Moto Metal brand, Model MO909 8-Lug bolt pattern wheels, in all sizes and finishes. These wheels were imported by Wheel Pros from approximately June 2008 through July 2013 and manufactured in China from approximately April 2008 through June 2013 by:

Ningbo Baody Auto Parts Co., Ltd No.345 Hexing Rd, Yinzhou Binhai Investment & Business Incubation Center Ningbo City, Zhejiang Province, P.R.C 315145

Tel: 86 574 88422022 Fax: 86 574 88021618

### **Recall Population**

Approximately 14,383 wheels (which were sold as approximately 3,595 wheel sets) are covered by this recall. Wheel Pros cannot estimate the number of recalled products that may actually contain the defect, but the company is recalling 100% of the wheels identified above.

### **Description of Defect**

These wheels may be susceptible to cracking, especially when used with tires having larger outer diameters. If a wheel crack remains undetected, it could eventually lead to separation of the

wheel from the rim, which could potentially cause a loss of vehicle control. The separated components may also damage the adjacent wheel end, suspension or body panel components and result in hazardous road debris. To date, there have been no reports of accidents, injuries, or fatalities related to this condition, and only minor property damage (i.e., damage to the wheel end and adjacent components) has been reported in connection with this issue.

## **Chronology of Events**

In May 2013, in response to an elevated warranty claims rate for this particular wheel model, Wheel Pros undertook a thorough review of its warranty and claims data and it consulted with the manufacturer/supplier of these wheels in an effort to understand the potential cause(s) of these claims. This review failed to reveal any obvious design or production issues, and customer misuse (overloading, possible misapplication) appeared to be the predominant cause.

To further evaluate the potential root cause(s), in late July 2013, Wheel Pros initiated a testing program with a third party test laboratory to conduct cornering and radial load tests on several variations of MO909 wheel models (5-lug, 6-lug and 8-lug, and different sizes) using a variety of load conditions. The test program was completed in early September 2013. From early-September through early-October, 2013, Wheel Pros representatives and its consultants analyzed the test data, as well as other available information and data.

Based upon the results of testing and other available data, on October 7, 2013, Wheel Pros management decided to initiate this voluntary safety recall out of an abundance of caution. To date, there have been no reports of accidents, injuries or fatalities related to this issue.

### **Remedy Program**

Wheel Pros will work with its distributor/retailer customers in an effort to identify and notify consumers of this recall. Affected consumers will be instructed to contact Wheel Pros or their selling dealer to arrange to have their wheels replaced with equivalent wheels free of charge, including parts, installation, and balancing.

### **Pre-Notification Reimbursement**

Pursuant to 49 C.F.R. § 577.11(e), Wheel Pros requests that it be exempt from providing notification of a reimbursement plan. All of the affected products are covered by the Wheel Pros lifetime limited warranty for structural defects. Accordingly, no person would be eligible for reimbursement pursuant to § 573.13.

#### Part 577 Notice Letter and Dealer Notification

A draft Part 577 owner notification letter is enclosed for your review. Wheel Pros' dealer notification letter is also enclosed. Wheel Pros is prepared to proceed with its customer and dealer notification programs within two weeks after NHTSA's review/approval of the owner letter.

\* \* \*

Please advise the undersigned of the campaign number assigned by the Office of Defects Investigation to this recall.

# Submitted By:

Jeff Whitten Wheel Pros, LLC 5347 S Valentia Suite #200 Greenwood Village, CO 80111 (303) 433-3599 ext. 4316

cc: Kelly Schuler, NHTSA Office of Defects Investigation/RMD Christopher H. Grigorian, Foley & Lardner LLP