

**RECEIVED**

By Recall Management Division at 12:01 pm, Mar 05, 2013



**Great Dane**

March 5, 2013

Associate Administrator for Enforcement  
Office of Defects Investigation  
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration  
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Re: Cast Suspension Hanger Welds

To Whom It May Concern:

This notice is being sent in accordance with the requirements of 49 CFR Part 573 of the National Highway Traffic Safety Act. Great Dane Trailers has determined that a defect which relates to motor vehicle safety exists in 698 Dry Freight Semi-Trailers Model Year 2011 manufactured at our Kewanee, IL plant. We have determined that the cast suspension hanger welds to the bottom of the I-beam bogie frame are suspect and may have been improperly applied. Cracking and failure of these welds can result in hanger and axle disengagement from the bogie frame which could lead to loss of control or a crash.

To address and remedy this defect Great Dane Trailers will inspect the hanger welds on all 698 trailers.

Great Dane Trailers has determined that all 698 trailers on which the defect exists were sold to ABF and they have been notified of the defect and trailer VIN's. Official notice to ABF will be sent as soon as approved by your office and a recall number has been assigned and received. An inspection and repair procedure is being developed to remedy this defect.

If after your review of this information should you have any questions or need any additional information please let us know.

Very Truly Yours,

Barry A. Mitchell  
Director, Customer Service/Warranty

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