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By Recall Management Division at 12:01 pm, Oct 17, 2013



October 11, 2013

Associate Administrator for Enforcement
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E.
Washington, DC 20590

Submitted via Email

Pursuant to 49 C.F.R. § 573.6, I submit the following Defect and Noncompliance Report on the behalf of Fontaine Modification Company.

If there are any questions regarding this report, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Kevin L. Barkley
Warranty Manager
Fontaine Modification
9827 Mt. Holly Rd., Charlotte, NC 28214
(704) 409-1614
Email: kevin.barkley@fontainemod.com



Information Report:

1. Manufacturer Identification:

Manufacturer: Volvo Trucks North America (“Volvo”)
P.O. Box 26115
Greensboro, NC 27402-6115

Intermediate Manufacturer: Fontaine Modification (“Fontaine”)
9827 Mt. Holly Road
Charlotte, NC 28214

2. Vehicle Identification:

Certain 2011 MY through 2013 MY Volvo VAH model vehicles within the vehicle identification range listed below and modified by Fontaine.

Model Year	Starting Sequence	thru	Ending Sequence
2011	BN297263	-	BN529462
2012	CN547479	-	CN563123
2013	DN130928	-	DN145319

3. Total Number of Vehicles Potentially Impacted

There are two hundred and two (202) vehicles affected by the recall that were sold in the United States.

4. Percentage of Vehicles Impacted

The percentage of vehicles containing the non-conformance is estimated to be 100% of the enclosed list.



5. Description of Exhaust Diffuser Issue:

Exhaust Diffusers installed by Fontaine on truck cabs modified for use as auto-haulers may have resulted in excessive exhaust heat being transferred to the roof of the truck cabs and/or the racks above the cabs. In very extreme operating conditions, this overheating may result in a fire. As a result, these vehicles could possibly be non compliant with Section (a) of 49 CFR 393.83 Exhaust Systems.

6. Chronology:

In January 2012, Fontaine began installing an upward facing exhaust outlet (diffuser) to the OEM vertical piping of tractors modified to serve as auto-haulers in order to comply with California state regulations on tractor exhaust systems.

In October 2013, Fontaine was first notified that the upward facing exhaust outlet (diffuser) was creating a potential heat issue that in one instance may have resulted in damage to the roof of a truck cab as well as damage to the tire and wheel of a vehicle being transported by the truck.

Thereafter in October 2013, Fontaine conducted a field inspection to examine vehicles that had been retrofitted to the upward facing exhaust (diffuser) and found thirteen (13) of sixteen (16) vehicles potentially in noncompliance with Section (a) of 49 CFR 393.83 Exhaust Systems.

On October 9, 2013, Fontaine's investigative efforts confirmed the existence of a noncompliance and identified the scope of the vehicles potentially impacted.

On October 11, 2013 Fontaine notified NHTSA that it will conduct a voluntary safety recall to address the noncompliance.

There is one field report associated with this noncompliance.

7. Steps Taken to Determine the Existence of a Noncompliance:

During Fontaine's field inspection, the exhaust heat temperatures of potentially non-compliant trucks operating under normal conditions were monitored using an electronic measuring device with a heat sensing probe as well as heat sensitive tape strips.



8. Remediation Efforts:

Fontaine will modify the exhaust systems by changing the diffuser shape and design to comply with FMVSS requirements.

Affected Distributors/Dealers will be notified on or before October 31, 2013. Owner notification letters are scheduled to be mailed on or before November 15, 2013. An advance copy of the owner notification letter will be sent to NHTSA for review, recall number assignment, and approval prior to the release.

Other associated bulletins such as the repair instructions will be supplied to NHTSA according to NHTSA regulations.

Fontaine Modification Co will notify NHTSA promptly if Fontaine assigns a campaign number that differs from the identification number assigned by NHTSA.