



Recall M-1401: Seat Belt Torque Retention

17 March 2014

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 Industries, LLC Recall No. M-1401

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 Industries, 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 2012-2014 model-year Xpert model heavy-duty class 7 and class 8 vehicles built by Autocar between July 11, 2011 and January 28, 2014, with serial numbers in the range 213288 through 217591. The defect occurs in the seatbelt assemblies of the affected vehicles.

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

197 vehicles are affected.

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

100% of the 197 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

The seat belt assemblies may not be in compliance with FMVSS 209, S4.3. The composite interior trim panel is captured between the seat belt and the cab sheet metal at all three connection points of the assembly, which may cause the torque on the bolts to relax to as low as 20 ft.-lbs. Bolts with low torque may fail to withstand a force of 40,034 N as required by the standard.



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

05 March 2014 Autocar identified the issue during a routine truck inspection.

06 March 2014 – Autocar investigated the issue.
10 March 2014

11 March 2014 Autocar decided to conduct a safety recall.

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. 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

11 March 2014 Autocar decided to initiate a recall.

17 March 2014 573.6 letter to be sent to NHTSA.

27 April 2014 Owner notification letter to be sent to NHTSA for approval.

9 May 2014 Repair bulletin to be distributed by Autocar.

11 May 2014 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 M-1401.

Very truly yours,

Kanupriya Arora
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