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By Recall Management Division at 2:52 pm, Apr 23, 2014

Recall M-1405: Seat Torque Retention

22 April 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-1405

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 March 5, 2014, with serial numbers in the range 213288 through 217702. The defect occurs in the seat fasteners of the affected vehicles.

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

207 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 207 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 seats may not be in compliance with FMVSS 207, S4.1. The floor mat is captured between the seat brackets and the cab sheet metal at all four connection points, which may cause the torque on the bolts to relax below the required torque. Bolts with low torque may not meet the performance requirements of 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 a torque retention issue on the seatbelt 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 on the seatbelt.
- 18 March 2014 Initial submission of 573.6 notice to NHTSA for Autocar recall M-1401 on the seatbelt.
- 11 March 2014 – Autocar continued to investigate the issue.  
31 March 2014
- 01 April 2014 Autocar decided to amend recall M-1401 to include additional fasteners.
- 08 April 2014 Autocar submitted the amended recall M-1401 to include additional fasteners.
- 16 April 2014 Autocar was contacted by NHTSA requesting separate notices to be filed.
- 21 April 2014 Autocar discussed with NHTSA and agreed to file a separate notice for torque retention issue on the seat.

**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**

- 23 May 2014 Owner notification letter to be sent to NHTSA for approval.
- 05 June 2014 Repair bulletin to be distributed by Autocar.
- 06 June 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-1405.

Very truly yours,

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