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Recall M-1407: 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-1407

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 various 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

(1) The floor mat is captured between the accelerator pedal mounting bracket and the cab structure at all four connection points, which may cause the torque on the bolts to relax below the required torque. This could affect the driver's ability to operate the accelerator pedal normally.



(2) The bolts securing the steering column mounting bracket to the cab structure may be below the required torque. The steering column may become loose potentially making it difficult to steer the vehicle.

(3) A trim panel is captured between the interior grab handles and the cab structure, which may cause the torque on the bolts to relax below the required torque. This could result in loose fitting handles. In the event the handle detaches from the truck body while an operator is relying on the handle for support, the operator could fall and suffer injury.

(4) The bolts securing the exterior grab handles to the cab structure may be below the required torque. This could result in loose fitting handles. In the event the handle detaches from the truck body while an operator is relying on the handle for support, the operator could fall and suffer injury.

(5) The bolts securing the steps to the cab structure may be below the required torque. This could result in loose fitting steps. In the event the steps detach from the truck body while an operator is entering or exiting the vehicle, the operator could fall and suffer injury.

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 – 10 March 2014	Autocar investigated the issue.
11 March 2014	Autocar decided to conduct a safety recall on the seatbelt.
18 March 2014	Initial submission of 573.6 notice for Autocar recall M-1401 to NHTSA for non-compliance with FMVSS 209.
11 March 2014 – 31 March 2014	Autocar continued to investigate the issue.
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 separate notices for distinct torque retention issues.



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-1407.

Very truly yours,

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