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**HME, Incorporated** 1950 Byron Center Avenue Wyoming, Michigan 49519  
Ph (616)534-1463 Fax (616)534-1967

May 1, 2014

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration  
1200 New Jersey Ave. S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20590

Attention: Jennifer Timian  
Chief, Recall management Division  
Recall Management Division  
Office of Defects Investigation  
Enforcement

To Whom it may concern:

This report serves as HME, Inc.'s ("HME") notification to the U.S. Department of Transportation's National Highway Traffic Safety Administration that a defect related to motor vehicle safety exists in certain HME chassis and apparatus. HME has decided that this defect existed on this vehicle on 4/28/2014.

**Information Requested under §573.1 Manufacturer Information**

The defective part is a seat belt receiver manufactured by Indiana Mills and Manufacturing Inc. ("IMMI") manufactured from August 2, 2013 through October 31, 2013.

Lisa Hanson  
Director of Corporate Quality  
Indiana Mills and Manufacturing Inc.  
18881 US 31 North  
Westfield, IN 46074  
Ph. – 317-867-8451  
Fax – 317-896-2142



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Inquires about this report can be made to:

Jon Coeling  
HME, Inc.  
1950 Byron Center Ave  
Wyoming, MI 49519  
Ph. - 616-534-1463  
Fax - 616-534-9460  
Email – coeling@hmetruck.com

### **Information Requested under §573.2 Recall population and Its Size**

The following chassis and apparatus are affected by this recall:

- (1) 2013 Ferrara Intruder Ember Cab and Chassis

In total there is 1 vehicle built in 2013 that contains this defect.

### **Information Requested under §573.3 Description of Defect or Noncompliance**

Certain IMMI seat belt assemblies equipped with L9 buckles do not satisfy the requirements of S4.3 (g) of FMVSS 209. When the button is pressed to release the seat belt, the latch plate can become partially engaged with the buckle, and it may take more effort than specified in the standard to separate the latch plate from the buckle. If the latch plate remains partially engaged after the button is pressed, egress from the vehicle may be hindered.

The root cause of the noncompliance is associated with the locking pawl (part number 916030) inside the L9 buckle. Some locking pawls from specific manufacturing lots were produced with an excessively large burr. The burr on the locking pawl can catch the edge of the latch plate when the button is pressed to unlatch the buckle, causing a partial engagement condition.

### **Information Requested under §573.4 Description of Remedy**

HME will be contact the vehicle owner with a Safety Recall Notice with the recommendation that they contact IMMI at their earliest convenience to obtain new seat belt receivers and to have the defective ones returned..



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HME is in process of developing the Safety Recall Notice and will submit that information to NHTSA as soon as available. The following is an approximate schedule for the program:

5/7/13 Complete revised notification to affected customer

5/12/13 Distribute notification to affected customer

We trust that the information provided in this document is fully responsive to the requirements of §573. All additions or modifications to any of the information given will be reported promptly to NHTSA.

Thank You,

HME, Inc.

Jon Coeling

HME Warranty Department

Attached: Appendix A - List of Affected Vehicles