

Part 573 Safety Recall Report**15V-151****Manufacturer Name :** Spartan Tool, LLC**Submission Date :** MAR 13,2015**NHTSA Recall No. :** 15V-151**Manufacturer Recall No. :** NR**Manufacturer Information :**

Manufacturer Name : Spartan Tool, LLC

Address : 1506 W. Division Street
Mendota IL 61342

Company phone : 539-7411

Population :

Number of potentially involved : 88

Estimated percentage with defect : 51

Vehicle Information :

Vehicle : 2013-2014 Spartan Tool Spartan Trailer Mounted Sewer Jetters Models 738, 758 and 740

Vehicle Type : TRAILERS

Body Style :

Power Train : NR

Descriptive Information : ASIN B00AES44B4, Spartan Tool part numbers 73800000, 738000LP, 75800000, 75800035, 758000LP, 74000000 and 740000LP

Production Dates : NOV 01, 2013 - DEC 31, 2014

VIN (Vehicle Identification Number) Range

Begin : NR

End : NR

 Not sequential VINs**Description of Defect :**

Description of the Defect : The defective hitch tube were manufactured in three pieces and then welded together. Correct hitch tubes are manufactured by forming a single piece of tubing to shape. The welds on the defective hitch tubes appear subject to breaking.

Description of the Safety Risk : A trailer hitch can drop to the ground while the trailer is in motion or parked.

Description of the Cause : QC Metal Fabrication, the manufacturer of the defective hitch tubes, chose to make the tubes with three cut pieces welded together, instead of a single, formed piece. The defective hitch tubes are at risk for failure where these three pieces are welded.

Identification of Any Warning that can Occur : Close visual inspection may or may not reveal cracking in the weld. Otherwise, there are no known warning signs. Spartan Tool intends to replace all welded hitch tubes regardless of current condition.

Supplier Identification :**Component Manufacturer**

Name : QC Metal Fabrication

Address : 1025 All Pro Drive

Elkhart INDIANA 46514

Country : United States

Chronology :

The first known failure in the welded hitch tube occurred when the hitch tube failed and the trailer dropped while one of Spartan Tool's own employees was towing a Model 758 Jetter in the normal course of business in January 2015. Spartan Tool noted the failure and, after investigating the causes, determined that certain hitch tubes purchased from QC Metal Fabrication were welded instead of formed and that the failure occurred in the welded joints of one of these hitch tubes. A second failure was reported to Spartan Tool on February 18, 2015 by a customer when the customer's hitch tube failed while the trailer was parked. Spartan Tool again identified that a welded hitch tube had been used on this trailer and the weld was the root cause of the failure. Spartan Tool then decided to identify and recall all 45 welded hitch tubes supplied by QC Metal Fabrication. Other than these two incidents, Spartan Tool has not received any warranty claims or other field service reports with respect to these hitches and it has not received any reports of injuries, crashes or fatalities.

Description of Remedy :

Description of Remedy Program : Spartan Tool intends to supply, at no charge to its customers, new formed hitch tubes to replace all potentially defective welded hitch tubes. We have in house today, sufficient supplies to replace all 45 defective hitch tubes. We will send these hitch tubes via UPS to each affected customer. Once the replacement hitch tubes have been received at the customer's location, within three working days a Spartan Tool employee will arrive at the customer's facility, remove the defective hitch tube and install the replacement hitch tube. The hitch tubes are attached to the trailer frames utilizing six grade 8 bolts and nuts, with washers protecting the hitch tube. These bolts need to be torqued to 74 foot pounds. Each Spartan Tool employee that visits the customer locations will have in his or her possession a torque wrench to effectively torque the bolts, in addition to two hydraulic jacks with which to prop up the trailer frame. It is anticipated that it will take less than one hour to accomplish the exchange. The welded hitch tubes will be destroyed by the Spartan Tool employee by cutting the hitch tube into pieces using a torch, grinder or hack saw.

Spartan Tool believes it can accomplish this exchange as described above within 30 calendar days of the start of the process.

How Remedy Component Differs from Recalled Component : The correct hitch tube has been formed from a single piece of tubing, and exhibits no weld residue through the length of the hitch tube extending out from beneath the frame of the trailer jetter. The transition of the hitch tube

from the frame of the trailer jetter to the jack stand of the trailer jetter is smooth and gradual. The recalled hitch tube clearly exhibits welding in two places on the hitch tube between the frame of the jetter and the jack stand where individual tubing pieces have been joined by a welding process. The transition of the hitch tube from the frame of the jetter to the jack stand is not gradual; rather it is angular in nature.

Identify How/When Recall Condition was Corrected in Production : As soon as the problem with the welded hitch was identified, Spartan Tool immediately reverted to use of a formed, single piece hitch tubes supplied by another component manufacture.

Recall Schedule :

Description of Recall Schedule : Spartan Tool has already contacted some of its customers, dealers and distributors to effect this recall. It is estimated that Spartan Tool will provide formal recall notifications (in substantially the form attached to this report, subject to feedback from NHTSA) to the owners of all 88 trailers manufactured during the applicable time period, and to its dealers and distributors, beginning five business days after submission of this report. We estimate all notifications to be received no later than March 31, 2015.

Planned Dealer Notification Date : MAR 17, 2015 - MAR 31, 2015

Planned Owner Notification Date : MAR 17, 2015 - MAR 31, 2015

* NR - Not Reported