

Part 573 Safety Recall Report**15V-352****Manufacturer Name :** Fontaine Trailer Company**Submission Date :** MAY 29,2015**NHTSA Recall No. :** 15V-352**Manufacturer Recall No. :** NR**Manufacturer Information :**

Manufacturer Name : Fontaine Trailer Company

Address : 430 Letson Industrial Road

Haleyville AL 35565

Company phone : 2054851375

Population :

Number of potentially involved : 159

Estimated percentage with defect : 75

Vehicle Information :

Vehicle : 2016-2016 Fontaine Revolution

Vehicle Type : TRAILERS

Body Style : OTHER

Power Train : NR

Descriptive Information : Affected Revolution semi-trailers include both flat deck platforms and step deck platforms. 159 trailers were identified as being built with the suspect washers with 119 trailers remaining on Fontaine's lot and 40 trailers having been shipped to customers.

Production Dates : APR 20, 2015 - MAY 13, 2015

VIN (Vehicle Identification Number) Range

Begin : 13n148209g1512134

End : 13n1532c8g1517819

 Not sequential VINs**Description of Defect :**

Description of the Defect : A vendor supplied 5/8" ID harden washer was discovered with multiple cracks in the body of the washer after installation in the bolted joint(s) on the trailer.

Description of the Safety Risk : Failure of the harden washers can result in bolted joints becoming loose due to the loss of the clamp group. The washer in question was used to secure the upper coupler , landing gear and suspensions to the trailer sub-frame. The loss of the bolted clamp group can over time result in the loss of attachment of key structural components attached to the trailer sub-frame.

Description of the Cause : The supplied component's material properties indicate a brittle condition which could lead to cracking and ultimately fracture of the washer rendering the bolted joint to be non-load bearing.

Identification of Any Warning that can Occur : Surface cracks in the body of the washer would be indicative of a defective component. Loose fasteners or movement of structural components secured to the trailer sub-frame would also be indicative of defective components.

Supplier Identification :**Component Manufacturer**

Name : Whitesell

Address : 2703 E.Avalon Ave.

Muscle Shoals ALABAMA 35662-2570

Country : United States

Chronology :

On May 13th, a Fontaine inspector discovered a cracked washer in one of the bolted joints on a Revolution Trailer during a routine final inspection of a finished unit. Subsequent ductility tests revealed the lot of washers stamped with the manufacturers ID "JR" to be brittle. It was noted that two other lots of washers of the same type were being used marked with manufacturers ID "S" and "PY". These were determined to be in compliance with expectations. It was also determined that the lot of washers marked with the identification "JR" could not have been utilized in production any earlier than 4/20/2015. All washers identified as suspect were purged from inventory and the production line on the morning of 5/13/2015. The supplier of the washers was notified of our findings on 5/13/2015. An inspection of Revolution trailers remaining on Fontaine's yard was conducted on 5/15/2015 that were built during the time period in question. This inspection revealed additional washers that had cracked, all identified with the manufacturer's id of "JR". Fontaine Engineering was notified of the inspection results on 5/18/2015. A discovery phase ensued to identify all trailers that could have been assembled with suspect washers and if the trailers were still on Fontaine's yard or if any had shipped to our Dealer and Fleet customers.

Description of Remedy :

Description of Remedy Program : All bolts, nuts and washers utilizing the style of the suspect washer will be replace with new hardware. This remedy will apply to all Revolution trailers built in the time frame in question. Trailers on the Fontaine yard are currently being updated with 16% of the total population already completed. The Fontaine Dealers and Fleet customers whom had received shipments of trailers were notified verbally and by letter to hold the units until they are updated. This population consists of 40 units shipped to a total of six (6) Fontaine Dealer or Fleet sites. Fontaine has created a washer replacement procedure and is securing inventory of all fastener requirements to complete replacements in the field. The Dealers will conduct the fastener replacement at their respective sites using hardware supplied by Fontaine and will be reimbursed for their costs. The fleets will be given the option to complete the replacement at their shops or Fontaine will contract with our Dealer base (or send associates if required) to complete the fastener replacement. All parties contracted to complete the fastener replacement will be reimbursed in full by Fontaine for reasonable costs.

How Remedy Component Differs from Recalled Component : The recalled component that is suspect, a 5/8" harden washer, is stamped with Manufacturers ID "JR". No "JR" stamped Inventory will be utilized. The replacement washers will be stamped with "PY", "S" or other manufacturers

ID that has inventory verified acceptable by our supplier, Whitesell.

Identify How/When Recall Condition was Corrected in Production : At the time of the discovery of the suspect washers on May 13th, 2015, Fontaine identified similar washers were being used but from different manufacturers. The suspect washers marked with manufacturers ID "JR" was purged from both the warehouse inventory and from the production line at all stations utilizing this washer on the morning of the 5/13/2015 and quarantined. The remaining washers identified either by "PY" or "S" were verified as acceptable and used for subsequent production and replacement needs.

Recall Schedule :

Description of Recall Schedule : Affected Dealers and Fleets have been notified of the pending washer replacement and that a replacement procedure and new fastener hardware inventory is available. Dealers are checking to see if any units in the suspect list were sold and will provide customer information by June 1st if required. Work has begun replacing the suspect fasteners for trailers still located on Fontaine's Yard. Fastener kits are already being sent to known replacement sites for units that need to be updated prior to releasing to the end user. Formal notification of Dealers, Fleets and end users will follow in a timely manner.

Planned Dealer Notification Date : JUN 04, 2015 - JUN 08, 2015

Planned Owner Notification Date : JUN 10, 2015 - JUN 12, 2015

* NR - Not Reported