

Part 573 Safety Recall Report**15V-557****Manufacturer Name :** Fontaine Trailer Company**Submission Date :** SEP 02,2015**NHTSA Recall No. :** 15V-557**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 : 23

Estimated percentage with defect : 100

Vehicle Information :

Vehicle : 2015-2015 Fontaine Traverse HT

Vehicle Type : TRAILERS

Body Style :

Power Train : NR

Descriptive Information : Structural members of the trailer suspension provided by a vendor for use on an over-the-road heavy haul flatbed trailer and associated weldments.

Production Dates : MAR 04, 2015 - AUG 06, 2015

VIN (Vehicle Identification Number) Range

Begin : NR

End : NR

 Not sequential VINs**Description of Defect :**

Description of the Defect : The structural members provided by Fontaine's suspension vendor and their respective weldments associated with the trailer suspension and supporting structure may be insufficient for the trailer's anticipated life. Accelerated cyclic testing has led to a structural suspension member disconnection from the trailer during side-drag testing.

FMVSS 1 : NR

FMVSS 2 : NR

Description of the Safety Risk : It is possible that a crack could initiate and propagate through a weld body and lessen the load transfer capability for a suspension cross member. In this event, other weld bodies may be overloaded and could result in the structural member becoming unattached from the vehicle.

Description of the Cause : The total weld length and/or size required to resist fatigue loading of the suspension member is insufficient. Cyclic testing has shown weld failure in this member. Likewise, it is possible that redesign of area of concern may better transfer load, and as such, lessen the stresses incurred in the weldments furthering the life of the trailer.

Identification of Any Warning that can Occur : Surface cracks in the weldments of the suspension members would be indicative of the onset of failure.

Supplier Identification :**Component Manufacturer**

Name : Fontaine Heavy Haul

Address : 5398 US Hwy 11
Springville ALABAMA 35146

Country : United States

Chronology :

On 08-26-2015, cyclic testing performed by an outside company reported failure of a suspension cross member component during side drag testing. On 08-27-2015, redesign options were reviewed with the outside suspension company. Likewise, weld procedures requiring weld size adjustments are being implemented into assembly to ensure greater strength characteristics for the affected suspension members.

Description of Remedy :

Description of Remedy Program : The dealer and each owner will be notified of the subject safety recall (pursuant to the included DRAFT-Owner Notification Letter) by registered mail service. Each Dealer/Owner will be contacted by a Fontaine Heavy Haul representative to schedule pick up of product for return to the manufacturing facility to remedy the defect. For all units located at a dealer or end customer, Fontaine, at minimum, will cover the associated freight costs to ship the units to and from the Springville, Alabama facility. The repair/remedy will be conducted by Fontaine at no charge to the customer.

How Remedy Component Differs from Recalled Component : Additional bracing members are being added to the suspension assembly to better transfer lateral loads. By adding more members, it will also be possible to increase the total weld length, which in return will lower the stresses imparted on the weld bodies and increase the trailer's life cycle. Repairs of units in service are already underway.

Identify How/When Recall Condition was Corrected in Production : On 8/28/2015 production remedy to ensure the problems are corrected was initiated. All units with a completion date of 8/28/2015 or later have been corrected.

Recall Schedule :

Description of Recall Schedule : NR

Planned Dealer Notification Date : SEP 02, 2015 - SEP 03, 2015

Planned Owner Notification Date : SEP 02, 2015 - SEP 03, 2015

* NR - Not Reported