

Part 573 Safety Recall Report**15V-615****Manufacturer Name :** Pierce Manufacturing**Submission Date :** NOV 12,2015**NHTSA Recall No. :** 15V-615**Manufacturer Recall No. :** 74B267**Manufacturer Information :**

Manufacturer Name : Pierce Manufacturing

Address : 2600 American Drive

P.O. BOX 2017 Appleton WI 54912-2017

Company phone : 414-832-3000

Population :

Number of potentially involved : 910

Estimated percentage with defect : 30

Vehicle Information :

Vehicle : 2006-2007 Pierce Multiple

Vehicle Type : BUSES, MEDIUM & HEAVY VEHICLES

Body Style : ALL

Power Train : DIESEL

Descriptive Information : All TAK-4 equipped apparatus shipped between January 1, 2006 and March 31, 2007

Production Dates : JAN 01, 2006 - MAR 31, 2007

VIN (Vehicle Identification Number) Range

Begin : NR

End : NR

 Not sequential VINs**Description of Defect :**

Description of the Defect : Pierce has determined that manufacturing process inconsistencies at the ball joint boot manufacturer resulted in an elevated number of tears in the protective boot. When the protective boot tears, it becomes possible for contamination to permeate the ball joint. Over time, this contamination can cause premature wear. Premature wear to the ball joint, if not addressed during inspection of the vehicle, can ultimately result in wheel dislocation from the control arm.

FMVSS 1 :NR

FMVSS 2 :NR

Description of the Safety Risk : Excessive wear can be identified through inspection pursuant to the published maintenance schedule. If allowed to continue, excessive wear may result in a ball joint separation either during a service call or while the vehicle is on the road. Should the ball joint separate, the wheel could become dislocated from the control arm. The driver would retain control, but the vehicle will come to a stop and become inoperable.

Description of the Cause : Manufacturing process inconsistencies at the ball joint boot manufacturer resulted in an elevated number of tears in the protective boot.

Identification of Any Warning that can Occur : Excessive or premature wear can be identified through inspections conducted pursuant to Pierce's published maintenance schedule.

Supplier Identification :**Component Manufacturer**

Name : Accu-Tech Again, Inc.

Address : 151 W. Fernau

P.O. Box 2664 Oshkosh WISCONSIN 54903

Country : United States

Chronology :

In July and August 2014, Pierce learned of incidents in Baltimore where a wheel became detached from a truck. Inspection of the truck revealed significant debris in the ball joint and tears in the protective boot. The investigation suggested wear resulting from a lack of maintenance to the ball joint assembly. The Office of Defect Investigations opened a Preliminary Evaluation on March 11, 2015. Further review and investigation shows a number of claims for tears to the protective boot covering the ball joint during the production period covered by this recall action. That same production time period is associated with reports of ball joint separation or excessive wear. After further discussion with the agency, Pierce has decided to conduct this safety recall.

Description of Remedy :

Description of Remedy Program : Pierce will inspect the subject vehicles for torn boots. Pierce will replace any such boot and will reimburse owners of the subject vehicles for the cost of having replaced torn boots in the past. Pierce will inspect the ball joints for any vehicle with a torn boot or that has had the boot replaced in the past. Pierce will inspect the ball joint against the expected level of wear for the ball joint. If the ball joint wear exceeds expected levels, then Pierce will replace the ball joint since the ball joint is deemed to have been subject to premature wear due to contamination from the torn boot. If the wear level is within the expected range, then Pierce will provide the customer information regarding the inspection and maintenance schedule.

How Remedy Component Differs from Recalled Component : NR

Identify How/When Recall Condition was Corrected in Production : The supplier initiated enhanced production protocols in March, 2007

Recall Schedule :

Description of Recall Schedule : NR

Planned Dealer Notification Date : NOV 30, 2015 - DEC 11, 2015

Planned Owner Notification Date : NOV 30, 2015 - DEC 11, 2015

* NR - Not Reported