

# SAFETY RECALL

Volvo Trucks North America  
Greensboro, NC USA

**VOLVO**

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## Fontaine Ultra LT Fifth Wheel, Replacement

VN

### SAFETY RECALL INFORMATION:

(December 2015)

Fontaine Fifth Wheel Company (Fontaine) is recalling certain Ultra LT Fifth Wheel connectors, part number SLTPL4000, manufactured July 29, 2009 to May 27, 2013. Over time, improper coupling techniques may result in cumulative damage to the fifth wheel and its locking mechanism, which in turn may result in failure of and/or improper engagement of the locking mechanism (Reference Fontaine Recall 15E-066).

The defect involves susceptibility of the fifth wheel and its locking mechanism to cumulative damage that may cause the fifth wheel lock to function improperly or a failure of the locking mechanism to properly engage. This cumulative damage is the result of the failure of operators to use proper coupling and maintenance procedures over a period of time. These practices include, but are not limited to, high coupling, a failure to conduct a proper visual inspection, a failure to ensure that the fifth wheel is in the fully open and ready to couple position prior to coupling, and failure to follow recommended maintenance practices.

When cumulative damage has occurred and goes unnoticed during visual inspections and maintenance of the fifth wheel, the fifth wheel lock may fail to function properly and the locking mechanism of a damaged fifth wheel may fail to properly engage.

In the interim, owners/operators should inspect each of the Ultra LT fifth wheels in their fleets to look for signs of any damage, including bent operating handles, wedge guides, locking wedges and locking jaws. Special care should be taken to inspect fifth wheels after known or suspected improper coupling attempts and instances in which preventative maintenance has not been performed per Fontaine's instructions. When the severe damage to the fifth wheel was caused by improper coupling procedures, drivers may notice during their required visual inspection the locking mechanism of the fifth wheel does not extend across the entire throat of the fifth wheel. In some instances if the fifth wheel locking mechanism has been damaged, the driver may notice excessive slack in the fifth wheel connection as he/she operates the vehicle.

Where any damage is noted to the fifth wheel during an inspection it should be immediately taken out of service.

Undamaged fifth wheels may continue safely in service until such time that an Ultra NT replacement is available from Fontaine.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please contact Fontaine Fifth Wheel at 1-844-597-7393 or [ultraltrecall@fifthwheel.com](mailto:ultraltrecall@fifthwheel.com)

VOLVO Trucks has received no reports of personal injury as a result of this condition. Therefore, VOLVO considers this as a proactive measure to protect the public and VOLVO's customers from the potential risk associated with this defect.

**VEHICLES AFFECTED:**

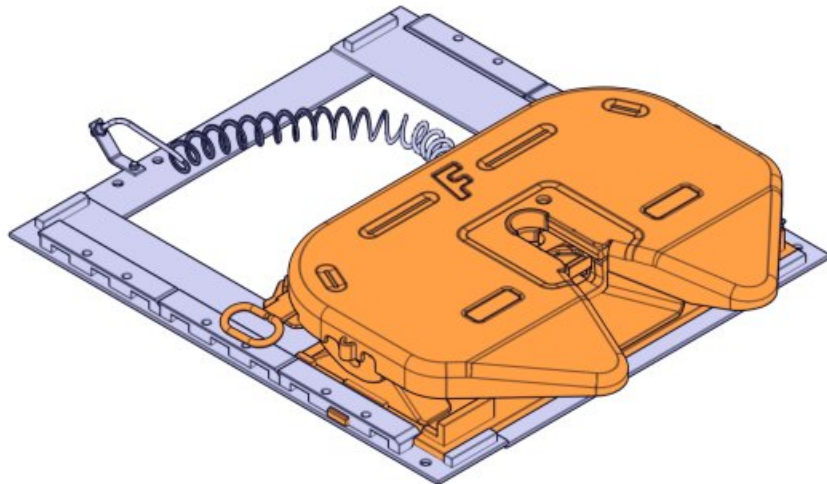
Certain 2011 and 2013 VOLVO VN model trucks manufactured from June 21, 2010 through December 14, 2012, and equipped with a Fontaine Ultra LT fifth wheel.

**VEHICLE IDENTIFICATION NUMBERS (VIN):**

The number of vehicles affected by this recall is 676 (670 USA, and 6 Canada).

**PARTS:**

Fontaine/ Ultra LT SLTPL400



**REPAIR PROCEDURE:**

Inspection and repair information can be found at [www.fontaine.com/recall](http://www.fontaine.com/recall). Fontaine will be administering this recall.