



U.S. Department of Transportation
**National Highway Traffic Safety
Administration**

1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

August 16, 2016

Ms. Susan Harmon
Product Safety & Comp Mgr
Charles Machine Works Inc
PO Box 66
Perry, OK 73077

NEF-150MR
16V-541

Subject: Breakaway Brake Switch May Not Work

Dear Ms. Harmon:

This letter serves to acknowledge Charles Machine Works Inc's notification to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) of a safety recall which will be conducted pursuant to Federal law for the product(s) listed below. Please review the following information to ensure that it conforms to your records as this information is being made available to the public. If the information does not agree with your records, please contact us immediately to discuss your concerns.

Makes/Models/Model Years:

DITCH WITCH/T14MV/2016

Mfr's Report Date: July 19, 2016

NHTSA Campaign Number: 16V-541

Components:

ELECTRICAL SYSTEM:WIRING
SERVICE BRAKES

Potential Number of Units Affected: 79

Problem Description:

Charles Machine Works Inc. (Charles Machine) is recalling certain model year 2016 Ditch Witch T14MV trailers manufactured June 23, 2015, to July 01, 2016. The affected trailers may have an incorrect wiring harness that could result in the brakes not applying in the event that the trailer separates from the tow vehicle.

Consequence:

If the trailer brakes do not activate in the event of a trailer breakaway, there would be an increased risk of a crash.

Remedy:

Charles Machine has notified owners, and dealers will correct the switch wiring, free of charge. The recall began on August 5, 2016. Owners may contact Charles Machine customer service at 1-800-654-6481.

Notes:

Owners may also contact the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration Vehicle Safety Hotline at 1-888-327-4236 (TTY 1-800-424-9153), or go to www.safercar.gov.

Please be reminded of the following requirements:

Copies of all notices, bulletins, dealer notifications, and other communications that relate to this recall are required to be submitted to this office no later than 5 days after they are originally sent (if they are sent to more than one manufacturer, distributor, dealer, or purchaser/owner).

Please be reminded that under 49 U.S.C. § 30112(a)(3), it is illegal for a manufacturer, to sell, offer for sale, import, or introduce or deliver into interstate commerce, a motor vehicle or item of motor vehicle equipment that contains a safety defect once the manufacturer has notified NHTSA about that safety defect. This prohibition does not apply once the motor vehicle or motor vehicle equipment has been remedied according to the manufacturer's instructions.

The information in your report suggests that Charles Machine may have been aware of this issue more than five business days before filing a report with NHTSA. Please be reminded that under Federal law, this agency is to be notified of all safety defect and/or noncompliance decisions within five business days. 49 CFR 573.6

As stated in Part 573.7, submission of the first of six consecutive quarterly status reports is required within one month after the close of the calendar quarter in which notification to purchasers occurs. Therefore, the first quarterly report will be due on, or before, 30 days after the close of the calendar quarter.

Your contact for this recall will be Michelle Rice who may be reached by phone at 202-366-1060, or by email at michelle.rice@dot.gov or through the office email at rmd.odi@dot.gov. We look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,



Jennifer Timian
Chief, Recall Management Division
Office of Defects Investigations
Enforcement