Part 573 Safety Recall Report

16E-017

Manufacturer Name : Bergstrom Inc.
Submission Date : FEB 26, 2016
NHTSA Recall No. : 16E-017
Manufacturer Recall No. : NR

Manufacturer Information :

Manufacturer Name : Bergstrom Inc.
Address : 2390 Blackhawk Rd.
P.O. Box 6007 Rockford IL 61125
Company phone : 815-874-7821

Population :

Number of potentially involved : 10,319
Estimated percentage with defect : 1

Equipment Information :

Brand / Trade : ParkSmart
Model : Standard
Part No. : A22-69027-004
Size : NR
Function : HVAC
Descriptive Information : Fully integrated electrical temperature management unit for Freightliner Cascadia Class 8 trucks.
Production Dates : MAY 27, 2014 - MAY 01, 2015

Brand / Trade : ParkSmart
Model : Standard
Part No. : A22-69027-005
Size : NR
Function : HVAC
Descriptive Information : Fully integrated electrical temperature management unit for Freightliner Cascadia Class 8 trucks.
Production Dates : MAY 04, 2015 - SEP 09, 2015

Brand / Trade : ParkSmart
Model : Opt. Idle
Part No. : A22-72122-001
Size : NR
Function : HVAC
Descriptive Information : Fully integrated electrical temperature management unit for Freightliner Cascadia Class 8 trucks.
Production Dates : MAY 27, 2014 - MAY 27, 2015

Brand / Trade : ParkSmart

Model : Opt. Idle
Part No. : A22-72122-002
Size : NR
Function : HVAC
Descriptive Information : Fully integrated electrical temperature management unit for Freightliner Cascadia Class 8 trucks.
Production Dates : MAY 04, 2015 - SEP 09, 2015

Brand / Trade : ParkSmart
Model : Service Loop
Part No. : BSM 1000627018
Size : NR
Function : HVAC
Descriptive Information : Service loop for electrical temperature management unit for Freightliner Cascadia Class 8 trucks.
Production Dates : MAY 27, 2014 - SEP 09, 2015

Description of Defect :

Description of the Defect : Inadequate contact between the mating surfaces of the electrical connector on the compressor end of the harness and the electrical pins on the top of the compressor can result in locally high electrical resistance and/or localized electrical arcing resulting in excessive heat at this interface.

FMVSS 1 : NR

FMVSS 2 : NR

Description of the Safety Risk : Overheating of the compressor connector on units built with the open style compressor connector cap has resulted in a small percentage of potential fires (one tenth of one percent, 0.1%).

Description of the Cause : If the compressor connector is improperly serviced, installed or damaged, and not fully seated on the electrical pin connectors of the compressor, the compressor connector may overheat due to the potentially high resistance and/or localized electrical arcing resulting from the electrical current passing through this mis-connection.

Identification of Any Warning that can Occur : Visible smoke and/or odor can precede fire

Supplier Identification :

Component Manufacturer

Name : Bergstrom Inc.
Address : 2390 Blackhawk Road
P.O. Box 6007 Rockford ILLINOIS 61125-1007
Country : United States

Chronology :

In response to a total of seven (7) reported fires over June – July 2015, potentially related to ParkSmart HVAC units, Bergstrom initiated an engineering evaluation and review of all relevant data and implemented numerous laboratory tests to understand any potential defects. In August 2015 Bergstrom began investigating design improvements and in September 2015 implemented an improved design in production. In September – November an additional three (3) potential fires that could be attributed to the ParkSmart units were reported.

In January – February 2016 the extensive investigation into complaints and potential issues and related testing was completed including scope and the size of the potentially involved population. The total number of potential fires reported represents an estimated failure rate of one tenth of one percent (0.1%).

On Feb. 22, 2016 Bergstrom decided to initiate a voluntary recall campaign.

Description of Remedy :

Description of Remedy Program : To address the potential defect on the units with open design style connector cap currently in the field, the proposed field fix is to remove the open style design connector cap, inspect the compressor connector terminal for any indication of heat discoloration and replace the harness if discoloration is present. In all units, a new, closed design connector cap will then be installed, reverting to the style of cap present on the population that did not exhibit a potential fire. The new cap will also contain design features that ensure proper connector to compressor alignment and compressor pin engagement when this cap is installed over the compressor connector. DTNA will notify customers of the recalled population of ParkSmart units and perform the required repairs at an authorized dealer location.

How Remedy Component Differs from Recalled Component : The recalled design has an “open” polymer cap over the compressor connector. The remedy includes a “closed” compressor connector cap design with differences in compressor connector cap geometry and a stronger aluminum compressor connector cap material, and features added so that the compressor connector cap now holds the compressor connector securely in place. The changes to the compressor connector cap internal rib geometry allows the cap to be used as a compressor connector alignment/ installation tool to ensure proper engagement of the compressor connector on the mating pins of the compressor.

Identify How/When Recall Condition was Corrected in Production : The closed style of connector cap combined with a new design electrical connector utilizing ring terminals secured to the compressor with threaded fasteners

was implemented in production September 9, 2015.

Recall Schedule :

Description of Recall Schedule : To be determined, we will provide this information to NHTSA as soon as defined through conversations with our customer

Planned Dealer Notification Date : NR - NR

Planned Owner Notification Date : NR - NR

Purchaser Information :

The following manufacturers purchased this defective/noncompliant equipment for possible use or installation in new motor vehicles or new items of motor vehicle equipment:

Name : Daimler Truck North America
Address : 4747 N. Channel Road
Portland OR 97217-7699
Country : US
Company Phone : 5037455508

* NR - Not Reported