

Part 573 Safety Recall Report**16V-276**

Manufacturer Name : Elpers Truck Equipment
Submission Date : MAY 03, 2016
NHTSA Recall No. : 16V-276
Manufacturer Recall No. : TB2016001 - IMT dist

**Manufacturer Information :**

Manufacturer Name : Elpers Truck Equipment
 Address : 8136 Baumgart Rd
 Evansville IN 47725
 Company phone : 423-5787

Population :

Number of potentially involved : 35
 Estimated percentage with defect : 90

Vehicle Information :

Vehicle : 2013-2016 IMT Crane Models: 6000, 7500, 8600, 9500, 10000, 12000, 14000
 Vehicle Type : BUSES, MEDIUM & HEAVY VEHICLES
 Body Style : ALL
 Power Train : DIESEL
 Descriptive Information : Series III Cranes built with a certain valve bank cover; the cover can crack and break.
 Production Dates : APR 04, 2013 - JAN 22, 2016

VIN (Vehicle Identification Number) Range

Begin : NR

End : NR

 Not sequential VINs**Description of Defect :**

Description of the Defect : According to IMT, certain IMT Series III Cranes have a valve bank cover that can vibrate excessively. Under certain road conditions the valve bank cover can develop fatigue cracks that eventually cause the cover to break.

FMVSS 1 : NR

FMVSS 2 : NR

Description of the Safety Risk : If not repaired, a broken valve bank cover can detach from the vehicle and creates a possibility of a road hazard which could result in a vehicle crash or injury. IMT is aware of 3 valve bank covers which broke and may have detached from vehicles, but is not aware of any accidents or injuries related to this issue.

Description of the Cause : A second valve bank option was introduced to S3 cranes in April 2013. A new valve cover was introduced to accommodate both valve bank options. The new valve cover is larger than the component it replaced. Because of the increase in size, the newer cover can vibrate excessively under certain road conditions which can lead to fatigue cracking.

Identification of Any Warning that can Occur : The valve bank cover should be periodically inspected for cracks forming. If cracks are forming, the cover should be removed or replaced.

Supplier Identification :**Component Manufacturer**

Name : Elpers Truck Equipment

Address : 8136 Baumgart Rd.

Evansville INDIANA 47725

Country : United States

Chronology :

Nov 2015 – IMT Tech Support received an email from a customer with photos of a cracked valve bank cover. The info received did not indicate whether the cover had detached from the vehicle.

Dec 2015 – IMT Tech Support received an email from a 2nd customer with info that 2 trucks in their fleet of 21 IMT units had valve covers crack and detach from the vehicles. IMT requested that the 2 covers be sent to IMT for analysis. IMT also requested that an inspection be conducted on the remaining 19 units in the fleet of the 2nd customer. IMT undertook testing and analysis to duplicate the conditions that created the failure mode. The two failed covers were sent out to an external expert for further analysis.

Jan 2016 - Testing was completed at IMT and a fix for production was implemented on Jan 25th. After analysis of all the information, it was decided on 2/3/16 that vehicles in the field with the subject valve bank cover posed a safety risk and to declare a recall to remedy the issue on all affected units.

April 2016 – “Eppers Truck Equipment” received notification from IMT on April 5, 2016 of specific crane models supplied as equipment to be installed by distributors onto vehicles. A thorough sweep of crane inventory was conducted at our facility and affected units were updated prior to sale. A recall has been declared by “Eppers Truck Equipment” for all affected vehicles based on this safety-related defect.

Description of Remedy :

Description of Remedy Program : The remedy consists of replacing the valve bank cover with a thicker gauge cover on each crane, including load information charts which are located on the cover.

The procedure will be performed by the owner’s service technicians at no cost to the customer, and should take less than 30 minutes to perform. The owner may file a warranty claim to IMT for reimbursement of parts & labor.

How Remedy Component Differs from Recalled Component : The remedy component is a higher strength and thicker gauge steel than the recalled component.

Identify How/When Recall Condition was Corrected in Production : On 1/25/2016 IMT implemented a new p/n into production for the valve bank cover with a higher strength and thicker gauge steel.

Recall Schedule :

Description of Recall Schedule : Notifications to customers will be made via a customer letter. The 577 customer letter will be mailed pending NHTSA approval.

Planned Dealer Notification Date : NR - NR

Planned Owner Notification Date : MAY 09, 2016 - JUN 06, 2016

* NR - Not Reported