

Part 573 Safety Recall Report

16V-357

Manufacturer Name : MANAC Trailers USA, Inc.**Submission Date :** MAY 19, 2016**NHTSA Recall No. :** 16V-357**Manufacturer Recall No. :** NR**Manufacturer Information :**

Manufacturer Name : MANAC Trailers USA, Inc.

Address : 8593 State Highway 77

P.O. Drawer K Oran MO 63771

Company phone : 573 2622166

Population :

Number of potentially involved : 18

Estimated percentage with defect : 25 %

Vehicle Information :

Vehicle 1 : 2014-2015 Manac Darkwing Aluminum Flatbed (5 and 8 axles)

Vehicle Type : TRAILERS

Body Style : OTHER

Power Train : NR

Descriptive Information : The affected products are Darkwing aluminum flatbeds with 5 or 8 axles. The defect is not present on Darkwing aluminum flatbed models with 6 axles.

Production Dates : MAY 19, 2014 - JUN 05, 2015

VIN Range 1 : Begin : 5MC185017F3149516 End : 5MC152819G3157582 Not sequential**Description of Defect :**

Description of the Defect : The defect consists in the possible occurrence of cracks in the structural web connected to the coupling plate of the trailer below the cross-member bolted in the web of the frame to the coupler.

FMVSS 1 : NR

FMVSS 2 : NR

Description of the Safety Risk : Depending on trailer use, the occurrence or aggravation of cracks could result in the trailer's coupling plate separating from its frame web, therefore increasing the risk of a crash, property damage, personal injury and/or death.

MTU is not aware of any accidents or injuries as a result of or in connection with the reported defect.

Description of the Cause : Uneven loads associated with vehicle side drag turn events can create stress and pressure on the frame's web connected to the coupling plate of the trailer. These resulting stress levels can be amplified by several factors such as working conditions and the amount of load on the trailer, and result in the development of cracks in the structural web connected to the coupling plate of the trailer.

Identification of Any Warning that can Occur : Cracks that develop in the structural web connected to the coupling plate of the trailer are located such that visual inspection is a possibility.

Supplier Identification :

Component Manufacturer

Name : NR

Address : NR

NR

Country : NR

Chronology :

In June 2015, a fleet owner operating two Affected Units (5 axles) reported cracks on the structural web connected to the coupling plates. The assemblies of both trailers were inspected and repaired under MTU's warranty policy. Following investigation, it could not be determined that these cracks were a widespread problem nor whether they originated from the possible misuse of the trailers by its owner. The cracks on both trailers had different degrees of severity and had not caused the coupling plate to separate from its frame web. By September 2015, both trailers had been repaired and delivered back to the owner. Although the cracks had not caused the coupling plate to separate from its frame web, a decision was taken by MTU to enhance the trailer design in order to strengthen the coupling plate assembly. All assemblies installed starting on Oct. 12, 2015 included structural enhancements to the design of Darkwing aluminum flatbeds with 5, 6 and 8 axles.

In July 2015, a second fleet owner reported a crack on the structural web connected to the coupling plates on one of his Darkwing semi-trailers (5 axles). The crack however had different characteristics from the June 2015 report. To satisfy this customer's request, all the flatbeds of his fleet were modified with the new design. The cracks had not caused the coupling plate to separate from its frame web.

On May 5, 2016, a third fleet owner reported a crack on one of his units. The affected trailer was inspected on May 10, 2016 and is being repaired. Due to the occurrence of cracks on this trailer and the previous reported cracks on similar trailer models, MTU has determined that continued use of similar trailers without structural enhancement could possibly result in the occurrence of cracks and/or structural damage to the frame web connected to the coupling plate, which could ultimately result in a possible separation of the coupling plate from its frame web.

Description of Remedy :

Description of Remedy Program : Coupling plate assemblies will be removed and replaced by redesigned coupling plate assemblies and all cracked frame webs will be repaired, at no charge to the owners. Each dealer and owner will be notified of the subject safety recall (pursuant to the included DRAFT - Owner Notification

Letter). Arrangements will be made with all customers to identify repair facilities that are suitable to their operating locale. Repair instructions and required replacement parts, if appropriate, will be provided to each location doing the repair. All parts and agreed to labor will be at no cost to the dealer body or owner.

If an owner has already paid to have an enhancement to the coupling plate assembly on his trailer prior to receiving a defect notice, such owner may be eligible for reimbursement in accordance with the details provided in the notice.

How Remedy Component Differs from Recalled Component : Inspection of the trailer will be required to determine the appropriate repair of possible cracks. The replacement coupling plate assemblies have been strengthened.

Identify How/When Recall Condition was Corrected in Production : All assemblies installed starting on Oct. 12, 2015 included structural enhancements to the design of Darkwing aluminum flatbeds with 5, 6 and 8 axles.

Recall Schedule :

Description of Recall Schedule : Owner and dealer notifications will commence with the approval of the notification letters by NHTSA.

Planned Dealer Notification Date : MAY 30, 2016 - JUN 03, 2016

Planned Owner Notification Date : MAY 30, 2016 - JUN 03, 2016

* NR - Not Reported