



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

1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

August 16, 2017

Mr. Rick Conner
President
Conel, LLC dba McElrath Trailers
3375 Chesnee Hwy
Chesnee, SC 29323

NEF-150MR
17V-489

Subject: Trailer Neck may Detach

Dear Mr. Conner:

This letter serves to acknowledge Conel, LLC dba McElrath Trailers'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:

MCELRATH TRAILERS/VX30-800/2015-2017
MCELRATH TRAILERS/VX50-800/2015-2017

Mfr's Report Date: August 3, 2017

NHTSA Campaign Number: 17V-489

Components:

STRUCTURE:FRAME AND MEMBERS

Potential Number of Units Affected: 105

Problem Description:

Conel, LLC dba McElrath Trailers (McElrath Trailers) is recalling certain 2015-2017 VX30-800 and VX50-800 trailers. The frame on the trailers may deform at the transition of straight and angled lateral portions, possibly resulting in the trailer neck separating from the rear portion of the trailer.

Consequence:

If the trailer neck separates from the rear of the trailer there would be an increased risk of a crash.

Remedy:

McElrath has notified owners, and dealers will add bracing to the trailer to reduce deflection in the side rails and tongue area, free of charge. The recall began on March 23, 2017. Owners may contact McElrath Trailers customer service at 1-864-814-2220. McElrath's number for this recall is VSB 154.

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).

It is our understanding that notification to owners began on March 23, 2017, prior to our review of the owner notification letter. Should it become necessary for MFR to do a renotification, the follow-up notification must be submitted to this office for review and it must comply with the requirements of Part 577.5, "Notification pursuant to a manufacturer's decision" and Part 577.10, "Follow-up notification."

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 McElrath Trailers 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 Significant civil penalties can be assessed for this violation.

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