

Part 573 Safety Recall Report

17E-051

Manufacturer Name : Curt Manufacturing LLC

Submission Date : SEP 17, 2017

NHTSA Recall No. : 17E-051

Manufacturer Recall No. : NR



Manufacturer Information :

Manufacturer Name : Curt Manufacturing LLC

Address : 6208 Industrial Drive

Eau Claire WI 54701

Company phone : 1-800-738-7213

Population :

Number of potentially involved : 166

Estimated percentage with defect : 100 %

Equipment Information :

Brand / Trade 1 : CURT

Model : Class 1 Trailer Hitch

Part No. : 11451

Size : NR

Function : Hitch Receiver

Descriptive Information : Class 1 Trailer Hitch intended for aftermarket installation on 2016/17/18 Mini Cooper Clubman and Countryman models, all trim levels, in the US and Canada

Production Dates : SEP 12, 2016 - JUL 27, 2017

Description of Defect :

Description of the Defect : The vehicle structure at points selected for trailer hitch mounting may be inadequate under certain service loads.

FMVSS 1 : NR

FMVSS 2 : NR

Description of the Safety Risk : Under certain load conditions, the trailer hitch mounting bolts could begin to pull through the body structure, causing the hitch to sag. This could lead to dragging bike carrier or trailer tongue or to trailer instability. If this condition remains undetected, the hitch may eventually separate from the vehicle, thereby creating a road hazard and increasing the risk of a vehicle crash.

Description of the Cause : Selection of trailer hitch mount points.

Identification of Any Warning that can Occur : Vehicle occupants may hear (or feel) clunking, scraping, banging, or may experience inordinate trailer sway.

Supplier Identification :**Component Manufacturer**

Name : NR

Address : NR

NR

Country : NR

Chronology :

6/26/17: Curt Technical Support received an email indicating underbody structure had torn at hitch mounting points.

7/31/17: Curt Engineering received a report indicating that a hitch fitted with a bike rack was pulling away from body attachments and dragging on the ground.

8/2/17: The 7/31/17 report was forwarded to Tech Support for disposition.

9/5/17: During a product design review, potential issues related to the mounting location were identified

9/6/17: Curt Technical Support received an email indicating underbody structure had torn at hitch mounting points.

9/6/17: Curt Engineering received feedback from Technical Support that a Mini dealer in Canada had received reports of two trailer hitches pulling away from the underbody under trailer loads.

9/7/17: The above-referenced incidents were reviewed with Curt's senior management.

9/11/17: Based upon a review of the available information, Curt management made a safety-defect determination and authorized initiation of a safety recall to address this condition.

To date, Curt has not received any reports of accidents or injuries related to this condition.

Description of Remedy :

Description of Remedy Program : Dealers with unsold units in inventory will be asked to return them to Curt. Replacement will be provided. Dealers that previously sold, supplied and/or installed units on customer vehicles will be asked to check internal records and provide Curt with contact information for affected owners. Curt will notify owners using an approved Part 577 owner notification letter, which will provide instructions for obtaining replacement units free of charge (parts and labor).

Pursuant to 49 C.F.R. §577.11 (e), Curt requests that it be exempt from providing notification of a reimbursement plan. All of the affected products are covered by the manufacturer's limited warranty. Accordingly, no person would be eligible for reimbursement pursuant to § 573.13.

How Remedy Component Differs from Recalled Component : The remedy part will have a new part number (#11522).

Identify How/When Recall Condition was Corrected in Production : Production of this part ceased on 7/27/17. Any future production will utilize a new design, which is currently being developed.

Recall Schedule :

Description of Recall Schedule : The planned owner notification date range below relates to owners for whom Curt has contact information as of those dates. The timing of any further owner notification will depend upon when Curt receives owner contact information from its dealers.

Planned Dealer Notification Date : OCT 09, 2017 - OCT 13, 2017

Planned Owner Notification Date : OCT 09, 2017 - OCT 13, 2017

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 : NR

Address : NR

NR

Country : NR

Company Phone : NR

* NR - Not Reported