

Part 573 Safety Recall Report

17V-489

Manufacturer Name : Conel, LLC dba McElrath Trailers**Submission Date :** AUG 03, 2017**NHTSA Recall No. :** 17V-489**Manufacturer Recall No. :** VSB 154**Manufacturer Information :****Population :**

Manufacturer Name : Conel, LLC dba McElrath Trailers

Number of potentially involved : 105

Address : 3375 Chesnee Hwy

Estimated percentage with defect : 100 %

Chesnee SC 29323

Company phone : 814-2220

Vehicle Information :

Vehicle 1 : 2015-2017 McElrath VX50-800/VX30-800 GEN 3

Vehicle Type : TRAILERS

Body Style : OTHER

Power Train : NR

Descriptive Information : The recall population was determined based on the following: The model VX50-800 LT was first produced in November, 2015. The Model VX50-800 was first produced in October, 2015 and the VX50-800 boom was first produced in December, 2015. The design of these models was revised to eliminate the defect in February, 2017. It is suspected that all 105 of the VX50-800 LT, VX50-800 and VX50-800 Boom trailers produced prior to the revision contain the defect. Complete serial number list can be seen in attachment.

No similar vehicles in terms of size and GVWR have been produced.

Production Dates : OCT 21, 2015 - JAN 11, 2017

VIN Range 1 : Begin : 1M9FE1221FS284734 End : 1M9FE1229GS284451 Not sequential

Vehicle 2 : 2015-2017 McElrath VX50-800 Boom

Vehicle Type : TRAILERS

Body Style : OTHER

Power Train : NR

Descriptive Information : The recall population was determined based on the following: The model VX50-800 LT was first produced in November, 2015. The Model VX50-800 was first produced in October, 2015 and the VX50-800 boom was first produced in December, 2015. The design of these models was revised to eliminate the defect in February, 2017. It is suspected that all 105 of the VX50-800 LT, VX50-800 and VX50-800 Boom trailers produced prior to the revision contain the defect. Complete serial number list can be seen in attachment.

No similar vehicles in terms of size and GVWR have been produced.

Production Dates : DEC 09, 2015 - JAN 11, 2017

VIN Range 1 : Begin : 1M9FE1221FS284815 End : 1M9FE1224GS284390 Not sequential

Vehicle 3 : 2015-2017 McElrath VX50-800 LT/VX30-800 GEN 3

Vehicle Type : TRAILERS

Body Style : OTHER

Power Train : NR

Descriptive Information : The recall population was determined based on the following: The model VX50-800 LT was first produced in November, 2015. The Model VX50-800 was first produced in October, 2015 and the VX50-800 boom was first produced in December, 2015. The design of these models was revised to eliminate the defect in February, 2017. It is suspected that all 105 of the VX50-800 LT, VX50-800 and VX50-800 Boom trailers produced prior to the revision contain the defect. Complete serial number list can be seen in attachment.

No similar vehicles in terms of size and GVWR have been produced.

Production Dates : AUG 20, 2015 - JAN 18, 2017

VIN Range 1 : Begin : 1M9FE1226FS284793 End : 1M9FE122XGS284460 Not sequential

Description of Defect :

Description of the Defect : . The defect involves a weak point in the trailer frame. As the lateral portions of the trailer frame transition from straight to angled inward towards the nose plate and pintle eye, a weak area exists which could result in the deformation of this area. See attached photo and drawing.

FMVSS 1 : NR

FMVSS 2 : NR

Description of the Safety Risk : The safety concern is the possibility of a catastrophic failure of the trailer neck which could result in a breakaway condition in which the rear of the trailer could potentially separate from the neck allowing the rear portion of the trailer to continue forward in an uncontrolled manner. Although no catastrophic failure of this nature has occurred in this recall population, this possibility has resulted in a revision of the design.

Description of the Cause : The cause is believed to be a lack of appropriate lateral support at the top of the trailer frame in this area.

Identification of Any Warning that can Occur : A warning of this defect could present itself as some minor deformation of the frame or the appearance of wrinkles in the paint in the area of stress.

Supplier Identification :

Component Manufacturer

Name : NR

Address : NR

Country : NR

Chronology :

The first notification from the field of a potential defect was in August, 2016 when a customer reported a crack on the right side of the most forward cross member to his dealer who in turn contacted our dealer who contacted us in September. A similar problem was reported, later in September, 2016 which showed decided deformation of the neck. As a result of these two reports, during October, 2016, a revision was made to the design of the trailer adding more support to the upper portion of the most forward cross member. The third report of failure was received in December 2016. A fourth report of failure was received in January, 2017 and a fifth report was received in February, 2017 which brought the total to five units. All of the five trailers which actually failed and had to be replaced or repaired were manufactured prior to the October, 2016 revision to strengthen the neck area. During February of 2017 a revision was made to the design to eliminate the defect and production under this revision began in February, 2017. Additionally, a field service kit was developed to eliminate the defect in models produced prior to the February, 2017 revision and a service bulletin was developed to manage the installation of these kits. VSB 154 is attached. Warranty claims were made on the five units which failed and all were repaired or replaced at no charge to the customer. None of these five failures resulted in crashes, injuries, or fatalities. See attachment.

Description of Remedy :

Description of Remedy Program : IV. The remedy program and its schedule are contained in attachments five and six. All of the units and dealers who purchased these units and the monetary reimbursements are listed here.

How Remedy Component Differs from Recalled Component : The model VX50-800LT/VX30-800 GEN 3 (16,000 Lb. GVWR), VX50-800/VX30-800 GEN 3(18,000 Lb. GVWR), and VX50-800 Boom (20,000 Lb. GVWR) all use the same chassis part number 8090551. The chassis is 22 feet long and 8 feet wide with two 10,000 Lb. Torsion Axles, four 21575R17.5 tires on 8 Lug 17,5x6.75 single wheels. The chassis which has been under production since February, 2017 has the same dimensions, however, the new chassis uses different forms of steel which strengthens the previously weak area.

Identify How/When Recall Condition was Corrected in Production : The 800 progression attachment shows the revisions made to the design. It shows the original chassis design, and the two revisions made to correct the defect.

Recall Schedule :

Description of Recall Schedule : The recall began 03/23/2017 with VSB 154 being sent out to affected dealers. The VSB 154 Completion log (attached) shows the customer

reimbursements and the serial numbers of the already modified units as well as the units which have not yet been modified.

Planned Dealer Notification Date : NR - NR

Planned Owner Notification Date : NR - NR

* NR - Not Reported