

Part 573 Safety Recall Report

17V-499

Manufacturer Name : Streetcar ORV LLC**Submission Date :** AUG 10, 2017**NHTSA Recall No. :** 17V-499**Manufacturer Recall No. :** NR**Manufacturer Information :**

Manufacturer Name : Streetcar ORV LLC

Address : 51960 West 12 Mile Road

Wixom MI 48393

Company phone : 225-0841

Population :

Number of potentially involved : 1,765

Estimated percentage with defect : 100 %

Vehicle Information :

Vehicle 1 : 2013-2017 RAM Heavy Duty Pickup

Vehicle Type : LIGHT VEHICLES

Body Style : PICKUP TRUCK

Power Train : GAS

Descriptive Information : The recall involves 2013-2017 Ram Heavy Duty gas and diesel Pickup Truck vehicles accessorized with cast aluminum road wheels manufactured by Vision Wheels and installed by Streetcar ORV, LLC dba American Expedition Vehicles (AEV) or an independent dealer, as well as wheels sold in the aftermarket. In the case of wheels installed on vehicles, they will typically be sold in sets of four or five (for a spare), so the number of affected vehicles is approximately 110

Production Dates : APR 14, 2015 - MAY 02, 2017

VIN Range 1 : Begin :

NR

End : NR

 Not sequential**Description of Defect :**

Description of the Defect : AEV either installed, or sold to dealers to install, an accessory Katla 8.5" wheel for Ram Heavy Duty Pickup Trucks. It has been determined that the wheels can fracture on the outer surface of the wheel. There have been five reports of wheel fracture in the field. There have been no accidents or injuries reported with regard to this condition, nor have there been any reports of wheel separation.

FMVSS 1 : NR

FMVSS 2 : NR

Description of the Safety Risk : A fractured wheel can result in tire air loss, which can result in a loss of control and a crash.

Description of the Cause : The root cause is unknown at this time.

Identification of Any Warning NR
that can Occur :

Supplier Identification :

Component Manufacturer

Name : Vision Wheel, INC
Address : 3512 6th Avenue SE
Decatur ALABAMA 35601
Country : United States

Chronology :

In April, 2017 American Expedition Vehicles (AEV) received 3 field reports of Katla 8.5" wheels that had fractured around the outer portion of the wheel. The location of the fracture on the wheel was consistent among the 3 samples and the severity ranged from a hairline crack to complete fracture around the circumference of the wheel. No injuries were reported. The day after the first field issue was reported all sales of the Katla model wheels were suspended and the failed wheels were expedited back to AEV from the field. An inventory containment plan went into place and all Katla wheels were put into quarantine status and inventory was identified by quantity per manufacturing date code for traceability purposes. In parallel, independent lab testing was scheduled and a Design of Experiments (DOE) was created. Five different test labs conducted a combination of SAE J2530 radial load testing, fracture analysis, metallurgical evaluation, and X-Ray. The first testing began immediately following receipt of the first failed wheel from the field and is still ongoing as of August, 2017. A total of 27 wheels were tested as of August, 2017 using failed samples returned from the field as well as random samples from AEV new inventory across all manufacturing date codes. Metallurgical testing was inconclusive and likely not a contributor to the failure. Zero lab failures resulted when test tires were inflated to their prescribed pressures. However, lab testing proved the failures found in the field could be replicated on wheels from each of the manufacturing date codes when test tires were inflated to 1.6 times the recommended test pressures. Subsequent to the start of testing two additional field failures were reported with similar failure mode. One occurred in May, 2017 and one in July, 2017. Although AEV has not determined a root cause, AEV has decided to conduct a safety recall to replace the affected wheels in the field.

Description of Remedy :

Description of Remedy Program : AEV will directly contact its customers who purchased vehicles equipped with the subject wheels, and who purchased wheels directly, and will work with its distributors to notify purchasers of Katla 8.5" wheels. Customers will be offered replacement wheels of the same value at no charge to the consumer.

How Remedy Component Differs Replacement wheels will be a different model. The recalled wheel part numbers are as follows:

from Recalled Component : 20404201AA//B - AEV Katla Wheel, 17x8.5 Matte Black Ram 8x6.5
20404203AA/B - AEV Katla Wheel, 17x8.5 Onyx Ram 8x6.5

Identify How/When Recall Condition was Corrected in Production : AEV stopped distribution of the affected wheels immediately upon receipt of the first report of failure in the field in April 2017. AEV is not the producer of these wheels.

Recall Schedule :

Description of Recall Schedule : AEV is prepared to begin customer contact upon receipt of NHTSA's approval of the draft customer letter.

Planned Dealer Notification Date : AUG 31, 2017 - OCT 01, 2017

Planned Owner Notification Date : AUG 31, 2017 - OCT 01, 2017

* NR - Not Reported