

Part 573 Defect Report

Dated: January 16, 2017


On January 16, 2017, 4-Star Trailers, Inc., 10000 N. W. 10th Street, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73127, telephone 405.324-7827 (4-Star) determined that a defect which relates to motor vehicle safety exists in certain aluminum horse trailers and accessories, as listed below, and is furnishing notification to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration in accordance with 49 CFR Part 573 Defect and Noncompliance Reports.

Date this report was prepared: January 16, 2017.

1. The full corporate name of the fabricating manufacturer of the vehicle and accessory's being recalled is 4-Star Trailers, Inc.

The corporate official whom the agency should contact with respect to this recall is Randy McArthur, whose telephone number is: (405) 265-2483 or 1-800-848-3095 ex. 140, and whose fax number is (405) 324-7625.

This report was prepared by Randy McArthur.


Randy McArthur

2. Vehicles and components involved in the Recall:

The vehicles which are the subject of this recall are 4-Star trailers with factory mounted axles with hydraulic disc brakes and Gross Axle Weight Ratings of 8,000 lbs, 9,000 lbs and 10,000 lbs, beginning with manufacture on January 1, 2012 and continuing through October 1, 2016. Specifically, the hydraulic line attached to the disc brake caliper may fail causing loss of hydraulic fluid and failure of the trailers brakes.

3. The total number of vehicles produced with the hydraulic disc brakes with Gross Axle Weight Ratings of 8,000 lbs, 9,000 lbs and 10,000 lbs is 109.

4. The approximate percentage of the total number of vehicles estimated to actually contain the defect, is 100 percent.

5. The defect is best described as: The hydraulic line attached to the disc brake caliper via a flared compression fitting ruptured where it enters the fitting causing loss of hydraulic fluid and failure of the trailer's brakes.

Warnings are in 4-Star's owner's manual to check all components of the trailer before each trip; however there is no specific warning to check hydraulic lines attached to the disc brake calipers.

The axles are manufactured by Dexter Axle Company and the mounting and installation are all performed by 4-Star.

6. The chronology of events that lead to the determination that a potential defect exists began with the receipt of notification on November 14, 2016 from a dealer warranty request, to repair a broken hydraulic disc brake line. Upon further research it was determined that we had 6 other similar repairs in 2016. This awareness generated in-house studies as to all similar component installations and resulting failures, if any. After testing and further examinations, it was determined that this failure was likely with this type of fitting and a recall was required, thus generating this notification.

Dexter Axle Company started offering hydraulic disc brakes beginning in 2012, due to recent warranty claims in 2016 we've decided to include all trailers that were sold with 8,000 lbs, 9,000 lbs and 10,000 lbs back to the date Dexter started offering the units.

7. Not used.

8. To remedy this defect, 4-Star proposes to supply to customers, a retro-mounting kit, containing one (1) line for each wheel assembly a 3-piece assembly consisting of a rubber hose attached to a metal tube which is then connected to a rubber hose that is connected to the brake caliper using a banjo style fitting. The customer may, at the customer's election, take the trailer to a local 4-Star dealer or any local trailer repair facility, as they see fit. The repair consists of: See the attached Detailed Instructions for service providers.

Beginning with November 14, 2016, production of 8,000 lb, 9,000 lb & 10,000 lb Hydraulic Disc Brakes has been altered using the banjo type fittings to assure that the fittings do not rupture.

The recall shall begin immediately upon receipt of approval from NHTSA of 4-Star's proposed customer notification letter and dealer notification letter. Within five (5) business days of receipt of approval, 4-Star shall begin sending notice letters to the customers who purchased a trailer with the 8k, 9k & 10k Hydraulic disc brake option to the last know address of such customers. Letters to dealers will also be sent at the same time. One Hundred & Nine (109) trailers were sold with either 8,000 lb, 9,000 lb and 10,000 lb hydraulic disc brakes. 4-Star has Twenty Five (25) dealers to be contacted.

Sent with the notice letter shall be the retro-mounting kit, which will go to customers. As with any item of personal property that does not require licensing in all 50 states, there is no way to track transfers of trailers from the original purchaser. 4-Star will send notices, postage prepaid, certified, return receipt requested, to attempt to assure that all first purchasers receive the notice and retro-mounting kit, with the request that if such purchaser no longer owns the subject trailer, they will so notify 4-Star so that the notice can be sent to the new owner. 4-Star has no ability to track transfers where licensing is not required.

9. Attached hereto are copies of the proposed Notice to Owners, Notice to Dealers and detailed instructions for service providers with photographs of the hydraulic lines.