



JOHN EVANS MANUFACTURING CO.

225 Lincoln Highway, Fairless Hills, PA 19030

October 4, 2017

VIA RECALL PORTAL

Associate Administrator for Enforcement  
Attention: Recall Management Division (NVS-215)  
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, D.C. 20590  
[RMD.ODI@dot.gov](mailto:RMD.ODI@dot.gov)

Re: Safety Defect Report

Dear Administrator:

John Evans Manufacturing Co. ("John Evans") has determined that a defect that relates to motor vehicle safety exists in the vehicles listed in the attached spreadsheet and is furnishing notification to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration in accordance with Title 49 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Part 573, Sec. 573.6:

1. Full corporate name of the fabricating manufacturer:

John Evans Manufacturing Co.  
1050 Pocalla Road  
P. O. Box 669  
Sumter, SC 29151

Inquiries regarding this report may be directed to:

Shari M. Solomon, Esq.  
General Counsel  
Diamatrix, Inc.  
225 Lincoln Highway, Suite 201  
Fairless Hills, PA 19030  
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2. Identification of the recall population: The recall population consists of John Evans trailers that were manufactured with a Tramec Sloan 51102 Quick Release Valve installed to aid in the application of the emergency brakes when air is exhausted from the supply line. The recall population was manufactured between December 2016 and April 2017. The attached spreadsheet sets forth the make, model, model years, vehicle identification numbers and manufacturing dates of the recalled vehicles.
3. The total number of vehicles in the recall population: 7, as listed on the attached spreadsheet.
4. Estimated percent with defect: The percentage of vehicles estimated to contain the defect is 100%.
5. Description of defect: The quick release valve installed on the recall population has a diaphragm that is not intended for use with constant pressure in the supply side of the brake system. When used under constant pressure, the diaphragm may degrade and develop pin holes. These pin holes, if they develop, allow air to escape from the exhaust port of the quick release valve. The loss of air from the quick release valve may allow the emergency brakes to gradually apply. A gradual application of the emergency brakes may cause them to drag, increasing the risk of property loss or injury, especially if the brake drag were to cause the vehicle to come to a complete stop.
6. Chronology of events:
  - (a) In July 2017, Cheetah Chassis Corporation ("Cheetah Chassis"), the parent company of John Evans, received a customer complaint about a leaking quick release valve on a Cheetah Chassis vehicle.
  - (b) Between July 2017 and August 2017, Cheetah Chassis received two more complaints from the same customer regarding leaking quick release valves.
  - (c) In August 2017, upon review of photos forwarded by the customer, Cheetah Chassis determined that the valve diaphragm was degrading and sent several photos of the valves to Tramec Sloan LLC, the valve supplier, for analysis.
  - (d) In mid-September, Cheetah Chassis received a complaint about a leaking quick release valve from a second customer.
  - (e) On September 26, 2017, Tramec Sloan LLC notified Cheetah Chassis that the cause of the diaphragm degradation was constant pressure on the valve by the supply air from the brake system.
  - (f) On September 28, 2017, after review of the brake system plumbing, Cheetah Chassis determined that a potential safety defect existed.
  - (g) On or after September 28, 2017, it was determined that several John Evans vehicles also contained the defect.



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7. Remedy plan: John Evans will supply customers with repair kits for the installation of heavy duty diaphragms in the quick release valves. The remedy plan will be set forth in greater detail in the proposed customer notification letter to be provided to NHTSA within 45 days from the date hereof. John Evans will notify all affected customers within 5 days of NHTSA's approval of the proposed customer notification letter.
8. Representative communications: The proposed form of customer notification letter will be provided to NHTSA for approval within 45 days from the date hereof.
9. Manufacturer's campaign number: Not yet assigned.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Shari M. Solomon", with a stylized flourish above the name.

Shari M. Solomon  
General Counsel

