



U.S. Department of Transportation  
**National Highway Traffic Safety  
Administration**

1200 New Jersey Avenue SE  
Washington, DC 20590

November 20, 2018

Mr. Timothy Meckstroth  
Vice President of Engineering  
Dexter Axle Company  
2900 Industrial Parkway East  
P.O. Box 250  
Elkhart, IN 46515

NEF-150MR  
18E-100

**Subject:** Insufficient Grease on Bearings may cause Failure

Dear Mr. Meckstroth:

This letter serves to acknowledge Dexter Axle Company's notification to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) of a safety recall which will be conducted pursuant to Federal law for the product(s) listed below. Please review the following information to ensure that it conforms to your records as this information is being made available to the public. If the information does not agree with your records, please contact us immediately to discuss your concerns.

**Makes/Models/Model Years:**

DEXTER/D28H TRAILER AXLE/9999  
DEXTER/D35 TRAILER AXLE/9999  
DEXTER/D40 TRAILER AXLE/9999  
DEXTER/D44 TRAILER AXLE/9999

**Mfr's Report Date:** November 7, 2018

**NHTSA Campaign Number:** 18E-100

**Components:**

POWER TRAIN:AXLE HUBS

**Potential Number of Units Affected:** 1,677

**Problem Description:**

Dexter Axle Company (Dexter) is recalling certain D28H, D35, D40, and D44 trailer axles. The inner hub bearings may not have been sufficiently greased, which can cause the bearings to overheat and fail.

**Consequence:**

If the bearings overheat, the hub may fail, affecting handling and increasing the risk of a crash.

**Remedy:**

Dexter will notify owners, and dealers will remove the hubs, repack the bearings and reinstall the hubs, free of charge. The manufacturer has not yet provided a notification schedule. Owners may contact Dexter customer service at 1-574-295-7888.

**Notes:**

Owners may also contact the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration Vehicle Safety Hotline at 1-888-327-4236 (TTY 1-800-424-9153), or go to [www.safercar.gov](http://www.safercar.gov).

NHTSA is missing critical, required information for this safety recall. This information must be supplied through the NHTSA Recalls Portal within 5 working days of confirming its accuracy:

- In the case of a defect, a chronology of all principal events that were the basis for the determination that the defect related to motor vehicle safety, including a summary of all warranty claims, field or service reports, and other information (such as numbers of deaths and/or injuries), with their dates of receipt (49 CFR 573.6 (c)(6)).

Please be reminded of the following requirements:

You are required to submit a draft owner notification letter to this office no less than five days prior to mailing it to the customers. Also, copies of all notices, bulletins, dealer notifications, and other communications that relate to this recall, including a copy of the final owner notification letter and any subsequent owner follow-up notification letter(s), are required to be submitted to this office no later than 5 days after they are originally sent (if they are sent to more than one manufacturer, distributor, dealer, or purchaser/owner).

You are required to provide an estimated date including month, day, and year, when you will send notifications to owners, dealers, and distributors as soon as it becomes available. Please be reminded that it is required that owners be notified of a safety defect in their vehicles within 60 days of a manufacturer's notification to NHTSA of a safety defect in those vehicles.

Please be reminded that under 49 U.S.C. § 30112(a)(3), it is illegal for a manufacturer, to sell, offer for sale, import, or introduce or deliver into interstate commerce, a motor vehicle or item of motor vehicle equipment that contains a safety defect once the manufacturer has notified NHTSA about that safety defect. This prohibition does not apply once the motor vehicle or motor vehicle equipment has been remedied according to the manufacturer's instructions.

As stated in Part 573.7, submission of the first of six consecutive quarterly status reports is required within one month after the close of the calendar quarter in which notification to purchasers occurs. Therefore, the first quarterly report will be due on, or before, 30 days after the close of the calendar quarter.

Your contact for this recall will be Michelle Rice who may be reached by phone at (202) 366-1060, or by email at michelle.rice@dot.gov. We look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,



Jennifer Timian  
Chief, Recall Management Division  
Office of Defects Investigations  
Enforcement