

Part 573 Safety Recall Report

19V-103

Manufacturer Name : XL Hybrids INC

Submission Date : FEB 15, 2019

NHTSA Recall No. : 19V-103

Manufacturer Recall No. : NR



Manufacturer Information :

Manufacturer Name : XL Hybrids INC

Address : 145 Newton St.

Boston MA 02135

Company phone : 6176488500

Population :

Number of potentially involved : 174

Estimated percentage with defect : 100 %

Vehicle Alterer Information :

Vehicle 1 : 2015-2018 Ford Transit

Descriptive Information : XL has determined that all 174 Ford Transit vehicles equipped with its electric hybrid system constitute the recall population. No other Ford Transit vehicles with XL's hybrid system technology exist in the field.

Production Dates : JAN 01, 2015 - FEB 15, 2019

Description of Defect :

Description of the Defect : Ford Transit vehicles equipped with XL's electric hybrid system share an identical front drive-shaft with the Isuzu Reach. During driving, Isuzu Reach vehicles with XL's electric hybrid system may experience a failure of the Carden joint on the front drive-shaft as reported separately.

FMVSS 1 : NR

FMVSS 2 : NR

Description of the Safety Risk : The front drive-shaft could potentially separate from these Ford Transit vehicles, and fall onto the roadway.

Description of the Cause : XL has determined that regular maintenance is required of the double Carden joint on the front drive-shaft, in the form of lubrication with grease. When the Carden joint is not properly lubricated, the centering mechanism can fail leading to total failure of the drive-shaft.

Identification of Any Warning that can Occur : Typically, a failure of the double Carden joint would be preceded by substantial noise and/or vibration.

Involved Components :

Component Name : NR

Component Description : NR

Component Part Number : NR

Supplier Identification :

Component Manufacturer

Name : NEAPCO

Address : 38900 Hills Tech Drive
Farmington Hills MICHIGAN 48331

Country : United States

Chronology :

On or around July 2018, XL learned from Federal Express that one of Federal Express' Isuzu Reach vehicles equipped with XL's electric hybrid system experienced a failure. XL did not have reason to know or assume at that time that the front drive-shaft had caused the failure. After learning of a second incident in September 2018 involving another Isuzu Reach vehicle in Federal Express' fleet, XL launched an engineering effort to see if its electric hybrid system could have caused or contributed to the issue. XL determined subsequently that the double Carden joint on the front drive-shaft of the vehicles had malfunctioned due to lack of proper lubrication. Ford Transit vehicles equipped with XL's electric hybrid system share an identical front drive-shaft with the Isuzu Reach. XL promptly issued technical service bulletins urging a lubrication protocol in November 2018 to this limited population, while it continued its engineering investigation and analysis of the defect and potential remedies. XL ultimately determined that a new sealed design for the driveshaft, that would not require grease lubrication, was the best and safest option, and began to arrange for that product and prepare its 573 filing. Meanwhile, on February 13, 2019, XL discussed the issue and proposed remedy with NHTSA representatives.

Description of Remedy :

Description of Remedy Program : XL will replace the current front drive-shafts on all subject Ford Transit vehicles with a drive-shaft that does not need grease lubrication, at no cost to the customer. In the interim time period, XL is in frequent communication with these customers about the importance of adhering to its maintenance instructions as set forth in the technical service bulletins issued in November 2018.

How Remedy Component Differs from Recalled Component : The replacement front drive-shaft will include a totally sealed double Carden joint that does not require any preventive maintenance.

Identify How/When Recall Condition was Corrected in Production : N/A

Recall Schedule :

Description of Recall Schedule : XL has been in regular communication with Federal Express and its other customers affected by this drive-shaft issue. These XL customers are aware of XL's remedy plan to replace the current front drive-shafts with ones that do not need grease lubrication. XL intends to start this process within the next 30-60 days and hopes to complete the replacements as quickly as possible but no later than the end of 2019. The Company intends to send owner notification letters within 30 days, rather than 60 days given the relatively small vehicle population.

Planned Dealer Notification Date : NR - NR

Planned Owner Notification Date : NR - NR

Purchaser Information :

The following manufacturers purchased this defective/noncompliant equipment for possible use or installation in new motor vehicles or new items of motor vehicle equipment:

Name :

Address :

Country :

Company Phone :

* NR - Not Reported