

Part 573 Safety Recall Report

19V-456

Manufacturer Name : Autocar, LLC

Submission Date : OCT 13, 2020

NHTSA Recall No. : 19V-456

Manufacturer Recall No. : ACX-1906



Manufacturer Information :

Manufacturer Name : Autocar, LLC

Address : 551 S WASHINGTON STREET
HAGERSTOWN IN 47346

Company phone : 7654895499

Population :

Number of potentially involved : 275

Estimated percentage with defect : 100 %

Vehicle Information :

Vehicle 1 : 2013-2018 Autocar Xpeditor

Vehicle Type : BUSES, MEDIUM & HEAVY VEHICLES

Body Style : OTHER

Power Train : NR

Descriptive Information : The mounting brackets of the first cross member behind the engine may fail prematurely due to strain. If the mounting brackets fail, the cross member may become loose and eventually disengage from the frame rails.

Production Dates : FEB 06, 2013 - MAR 23, 2017

VIN Range 1 : Begin : 5VCACDLE7DH215900 **End :** 5VCACLUF4JH224163

☒ Not sequential

Description of Defect :

Description of the Defect : The drive shaft support cross member may fail.

FMVSS 1 : NR

FMVSS 2 : NR

Description of the Safety Risk : If the cross member is used to support components such as the drive shaft center bearing, in the event of a failure such components may not be supported and may become loose, detached from the vehicle or damage other components during operation, increasing the risk of a crash, personal injury or property damage.

Description of the Cause : Certain units built with a wheelbase less than 186" do not allow enough torsional flexibility. This lack of torsional flexibility concentrates energy at the first cross member behind the engine and causes an overstress condition resulting in a fatigue failure.

Identification of Any Warning that can Occur : Identify any warning which can precede or occur:

Cracks in the cross member which should be detectable by visual inspection.
An audible "popping" while the truck is in motion may also be present.

Involved Components :

Component Name 1 : NR

Component Description : NR

Component Part Number : NR

Supplier Identification :**Component Manufacturer**

Name : NR

Address : NR

NR

Country : NR

Chronology :

In or about spring 2017, as a part of Autocar's continuous review of quality and safety matters, sporadic frame rail bracket cracks were observed in a narrow subset of ACX64 vehicles, but Autocar could not identify a root cause, or narrow the potential population. Autocar hypothesized that such cracking could potentially give rise to one certain frame rail cross-member (number 409) loosening over time on one side of the frame, but no such phenomena were actually observed, and none of the observed issues showed signs of progressing to this failure state. Autocar evaluated the situation and in its best engineering judgement, determined that the issue did not present an unreasonable risk to safety, given the sporadic nature of the observed phenomena. Autocar therefore addressed the matter as a quality issue with a service kit issued as cracks were observed. Autocar continued to proactively monitor the matter.

In 2018 and spring 2019, Autocar's engineers continued to examine the issue, and were still unable to determine the cause of the cracks, but theorized that torsional flexibility might collect in the 409 frame bracket location in certain operational circumstances. At this time, Autocar's engineers were able to determine that the issue only affected trucks that have (1) a wheelbase less than or equal to 186" and (2) a front end loader (residential or commercial). Even though the last reported crack in any cross-member occurred in February 2018, the continuing investigation into the hypothetical risk for progressive failure lead Autocar to believe that further discussion was warranted. Autocar convened its Product Integrity Committee on June 6, 2019 and elected to conduct a voluntary safety recall as a prophylactic measure for all vehicles that may potentially be affected.

Description of Remedy :

Description of Remedy Program : Any damaged components will be replaced. Additional support brackets and an additional cross member will be added to all the affected vehicles at no charge to the owner.

How Remedy Component Differs from Recalled Component : Any damaged components will be replaced. Additional support brackets and an additional cross member will be added to all the affected vehicles at no charge to the owner

Identify How/When Recall Condition was Corrected in Production : This design was discontinued and no longer used after 2018.

Recall Schedule :

Description of Recall Schedule : Owner and Dealer Notification to begin

Planned Dealer Notification Date : AUG 08, 2019 - AUG 09, 2019

Planned Owner Notification Date : AUG 08, 2019 - AUG 09, 2019

* NR - Not Reported