

22 November, 2023

Recall Division  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration  
Office of Defects Investigation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE., Washington, DC 20590

Submitted Via: NHTSA Web site Portal

**Re: Notice of Defect and Recall Campaign**

Dear NHTSA;

Pursuant to 49 CFR 573.6 please accept this letter as our notification to you that we are initiating a campaign to recall and correct a defect found in the hopper chute doors that control the discharge of grain from our hopper bottom trailers on 66 of Class 8 semi-trailers manufactured by Prestige Trailers and sold in the United States.

Details are as follows:

- a. The name of the company giving notice is:  
**Triple E Canada Ltd.**  
**D.B.A. Prestige Trailers**  
Box 1146  
135 Canada Street  
Winkler, MB R6W 4B2  
Canada  
Phone (204) 325-4345
- b. We have been assigned Manufacturer's Identification # 2310 in the NHTSA Manufacturer's Information Database.
- c. These trailers are built in tandem-axle configuration. The make of the affected trailers are all Prestige Trailers. They are all class 8 semi-trailers in a two hopper bottom configuration for hauling grain. The individual model designation for each is

included in the accompanying Excel file. The individual VIN for each unit and the Date Of Manufacture (DOM) is also provided in the accompanying Excel file. The unique feature for these trailers is a large chute door on each hopper that opens/closes using a 2-speed gearbox. These 66 trailers were built in the timeframe from October 2020 through November, 2023.

- d. For the 66 semi-trailers being recalled we expect all of these units will exhibit the deficiency being recalled.
- e. These trailers are all equipped from new with a lockable 2-speed gearbox to drive the doors and a stopper mechanism that prevents the chute door from coming completely out of its track. It has always been assumed that operators would close and lock these chute doors before venturing out onto a public roadway. We have recently learned of two incidents where the operator left the chute doors open and was able to defeat the stopper mechanism, thereby losing a door on the highway while in transit. This chute door is a large stainless steel plate that weighs in excess of 100 lb. We recently became aware of this issue when two customers called our Parts Department to purchase replacement chute doors. This was unusual as these doors should last for the life of the trailer and do not normally need to be replaced.
- f. The potential safety risk will only occur in the event the operator fails to close and lock the doors after emptying the trailer and proceeds to drive with the chute doors remaining open. It is possible for the door(s) to vibrate loose and fall off the trailer while in transit.
- g. The remedial corrective action for this deficiency is two-fold: we want to add a decal to each opening/closing mechanism advising the operator to close and lock the chute doors before moving the trailer. Secondly, we want to install a more permanent stopper on each door that more positively prevents these chute doors from coming out of their track.
- h. We anticipate that within two weeks the Recall Notification letters will be mailed out to the owners/customers of these trailers.

Our point of contact here at Prestige Trailers will be the undersigned, Director of Engineering. We look forward to working with you to swiftly address this issue and get this corrective action in place.

Yours truly,  
Prestige Trailers



D. Roy MacLean, P.Eng.  
Director of Engineering