

# Part 573 Safety Recall Report

## 21E-067

**Manufacturer Name :** Terran Axle LLC

**Submission Date :** SEP 10, 2021

**NHTSA Recall No. :** 21E-067

**Manufacturer Recall No. :** NR



### Manufacturer Information :

**Manufacturer Name :** Terran Axle LLC

**Address :** 1 Westbrook Corporate Center  
Suite 300 Westchester IL 60154

**Company phone :** 312 7767

### Population :

**Number of potentially involved :** 5,796

**Estimated percentage with defect :** 6 %

### Equipment Information :

**Brand / Trade 1 :** Terran Axle

**Model :** Trailer Axles

**Part No. :** 020401 (spindle nut)

**Size :** NR

**Function :** NR

**Descriptive Information :** Basis for Determination of Recall Population: We began manufacturing on February 5, 2021 and continued to June 21, 2021. We are recalling for inspection and any necessary repair all axles that were manufactured and shipped.

Recalled products differ (from those not included in recall) because there is a possibility that the spindle nuts in the trailer axles were insufficiently torqued.

The number of affected products is 5796 trailer axles each containing 2 spindle nuts. Estimated percentage of axles with insufficiently torqued spindle nuts is 5.6%.

**Production Dates :** FEB 05, 2021 - JUN 21, 2021

### Description of Defect :

**Description of the Defect :** In the assembly of certain axles in our factory, a certain number of spindle nuts were not torqued to prescribed standards resulting in insufficiently torqued (loose) spindle nuts.

**FMVSS 1 :** NR

**FMVSS 2 :** NR

**Description of the Safety Risk :** Insufficiently torqued spindle nuts may lead to higher than normal axle vibration possibly resulting in overheated bearings and bearing failure as well as potential smoking of the axle from friction and improper tire wear and

wheel performance. Axle, tire or wheel failure may affect vehicle stability or control, increasing the risk of a crash.

Description of the Cause : Improper torquing of spindle nut to prescribed levels.

Identification of Any Warning that can Occur : NR

### Involved Components :

Component Name : Spindle Nut

Component Description : Spindle Nut retains the hub assembly to the spindle.

Component Part Number : N/A

### Supplier Identification :

#### Component Manufacturer

Name : NR

Address : NR

NR

Country : NR

### Chronology :

Terran Axle received two customer complaints (on July 13 and 14, 2021, respectively) related to reported wheel vibration in one instance and friction causing smoke to emanate from an axle in another instance on trailers utilizing our axles. Beginning at 7pm on July 14, 2021, we initiated a manual quality control review of the available axles in our manufacturing facility. The objective was to identify any manufacturing or assembly issues with the axles, any safety risks and necessary repairs, replacements or adjustments. We enlisted the expertise of our internal axle specialists and visually and manually inspected 125 axles (CPK>1.33) to identify any axles that did not meet specifications. From these manual inspections and the analysis performed by internal axle specialists, we estimated that approximately 5.6% of the affected axles may have had insufficiently torqued spindle nuts. With this information, we identified for inspection and possible repair the axles distributed in the United States of which a portion may not have sufficiently torqued spindle nuts.

After assessment of this data and with the advice of internal axle specialists, we determined on July 17, 2021 to initiate a notice of repair to our trailer manufacturer customers, their dealers, and purchasers of trailers incorporating these axles. We verbally and by email, in certain instances, notified the trailer manufacturers that received these axles of the requirement to inspect all axles to determine immediately if the spindle nuts were properly torqued. Further, we prepared written instructions for the necessary spindle nut torqueing along with

a step-by-step instructional video. On July 21, 2021, Terran management made a formal determination that remedial field action was necessary.

## Description of Remedy :

**Description of Remedy Program :** Terran Axle will notify all trailer manufacture customers, their dealers, and purchasers of trailers incorporating the axles subject to the inspection to determine whether spindle nuts are properly torqued. We mandate manual inspection of each spindle nut assembly (2 per axle) to ensure proper torqueing and, in the event that a spindle nut requires torqueing to meet prescribed standards, we provide detailed instructions and, for axles that have been in operation on a moving trailer and experience vibration, we will require the technician to confirm that the bearings have not been impacted and the axle is properly greased. In the event that bearings have been affected, we make provision for replacement of these bearings.

**How Remedy Component Differs from Recalled Component :** The remedy involves torqueing the spindle nut to the prescribed standards which facilitates proper operability of the axle and consequent wheel and tire function.

**Identify How/When Recall Condition was Corrected in Production :** Inspected each trailer axle and, if a spindle nut was insufficiently torqued, the spindle nut was torqued to the prescribed standards.

## Recall Schedule :

**Description of Recall Schedule :** We identified all of the potentially affected axles (5796 units) and have the serial numbers for all axles that require inspection. Beginning on July 16, 2021, we notified trailer manufacturing customers and their dealers that purchased these axles that these axles may have a spindle nut torque issue and require immediate inspection. On July 19, 2021, we sent written and video instructions to manufacturers and dealers on how to properly torque the spindle to prescribed standards. We have also called dealers to ensure compliance with the inspection and spindle nut adjustment procedures. We are coordinating with the trailer manufacturers and dealers on identifying end user purchasers of trailers with the axles in order to directly provide instructions for the prompt inspection of the axles and, if necessary, adjustment to the spindle nuts. Terran will keep records of all inspections and repairs as well as trailer manufacturer customer, dealer and end user contacts. Terran is in the process of preparing formal recall notification letters to distributors/dealers and to trailer purchasers/end users and will submit drafts to NHTSA for review.

**Planned Dealer Notification Date :** JUL 23, 2021 - JUL 27, 2021

**Planned Owner Notification Date :** JUL 26, 2021 - AUG 27, 2021

### 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 : Peach Cargo  
Address : 230 Talley Street  
Adel GA 31620

Country : US  
Company Phone : 2298961646

Name : Carson Trailers  
Address : 14831 South Maple Avenue  
Gardena CA 90248

Country : US  
Company Phone : 3105166046

Name : Tru Trailers  
Address : 4444 East Lincoln Avenue  
Fresno CA 93725

Country : US  
Company Phone : 5598344073

Name : Sky Trailers  
Address : 242 West Hanna Street  
Colton CA 92324

Country : US  
Company Phone : 9096397086

Name : Teton Trailer  
Address : 2856 North Holmes Avenue  
Idaho Falls ID 83401

Country : US  
Company Phone : 2085893465

Name : Topline Trailers  
Address : 18927 Country Road 41N  
Addison AL 35540

Country : US  
Company Phone : 2564242625

Name : Inland Empire Trailers

Address : 17748 Taylor Avenue  
Bloomington CA 92316

Country : US

Company Phone : 9099995033

\* NR - Not Reported