

Part 573 Safety Recall Report

21V-270

Manufacturer Name : Vermeer Manufacturing Company**Submission Date :** JAN 12, 2023**NHTSA Recall No. :** 21V-270**Manufacturer Recall No. :** IK4078 IK4084**Manufacturer Information :**

Manufacturer Name : Vermeer Manufacturing Company

Address : 1210 VERMEER ROAD EAST

PO BOX 200 PELLA IA 50219-0200

Company phone : 641-628-3141

Population :

Number of potentially involved : 286

Estimated percentage with defect : 100 %

Vehicle Information :

Vehicle 1 : 2015-2021 Vermeer AX19

Vehicle Type : TRAILERS

Body Style :

Power Train : NR

Descriptive Information : Using various manufacturing documents and drawings, as well as personnel records, research was conducted to determine the population of AX19's affected by frame cracking. The trailer frame design is unique to the AX19. 286 units are involved in this campaign.

Production Dates : JUL 01, 2015 - MAY 19, 2021

VIN Range 1 : Begin : 1VRL1925XF1000100 End : 1VRL19257L1000342

 Not sequential

VIN Range 2 : Begin : 1VRL19251M1001018 End : 1VRL19253M1001043

 Not sequential**Description of Defect :**

Description of the Defect : In some specific cases, a crack can develop in the undercarriage frame due to higher-than-expected chipping loads. Cracks have been observed to develop at or around 1,000 hours of operation, in the course of average use (~20-25 hours per week). Cracks may develop more frequently on the left side of the frame (when viewed from the rear) than on the right. This crack can extend into the frame, which may result in severe damage to the brush chipper, such as bending and warping, but without catastrophic failure of the frame. If not addressed the frame can bend and/or distort resulting in unpredictable vehicle handling.

FMVSS 1 : NR

FMVSS 2 : NR

Description of the Safety Risk : Frame cracks may increase the risk of losing vehicle control while towing. Death or serious injury is possible. Property damage may also occur.

Description of the Cause : NR

Identification of Any Warning NR
that can Occur :

Involved Components :

Component Name 1 : MAINFRAME

Component Description : WLMT - MAINFRAME - SN101- 136

Component Part Number : 163730302

Component Name 2 : MAINFRAME

Component Description : WLMT - MAINFRAME - SN137-342

Component Part Number : 180030134

Component Name 3 : MAINFRAME

Component Description : WLMT - MAINFRAME - SN1001+

Component Part Number : 163800001

Supplier Identification :

Component Manufacturer

Name : NR

Address : NR

NR

Country : NR

Chronology :

1/29/21 - Field report on SN103, VIN 1VRL19251H1000103.

2/10/21 - Field report on SN228, VIN 1VRL19252J1000228

2/15/21 - Meeting about field report, talked with engineering to start investigation. Dealer reported a cracked/distorted frame. Left frame channel of trailer undercarriage was discovered to be cracked completely through.

Trailer did not separate from tow vehicle. Trailer frame was replaced.

3/11/21 – Strain gauge test request submitted.

3/17/21 - Met with engineering to discuss investigation. Identified unit to use for testing. Discussed getting the unit instrumented up and prepared to run a course to test the chipper.

3/31/21 - Met with engineering to discuss test progress. Testing is in process. Once testing is completed, analysis will be performed.

4/14/21 – Met with engineering to review collected data from strain gauge testing.

4/15/21 – A determination was made that a safety campaign will occur.

No warranty claims were submitted and no deaths or injuries have been reported.

5/11/22: Decision made by Product Safety that more clear instructions and inspection was needed to ensure proper checks for cracks were made before installing new component.

12/23/2022: Dealer reported that while installing the kit on SN 115 that there was interference between the plate addition and fender and wondered if it should be trimmed. This started an investigation at the factory to see if that was an issue not found during kit fit ups.

1/11/2023: Decision was made to revise the kit instructions to include instructions to trim fender plates slightly to allow for clearance after kit installation on SNs 101-136 only.

Description of Remedy :

Description of Remedy Program : Field remedy kits will be provided to authorized Vermeer dealers to install. The kit will include instructions to drill holes in the frame at the stress concentration point and then a doubler plate will be welded onto the frame to reinforce and distribute the stress in that location. Upon installation and receipt of field remedy kit warranty claim, dealers will be reimbursed for parts and labor. For machines with 1000 hours in operation or fewer, owners will be instructed to inspect the machines and return an Engine Hours Report to Vermeer. For machines with more than 1000 hours in operation, owners will be instructed to contact their local dealer for inspection. Any owners who return the Engine Hours Report to Vermeer will receive a parts credit certificate. Owners will be notified of the potential safety risk and available field remedy kit by letter according to the product database records maintained by Vermeer. Vermeer pays for all parts and labor for product safety recalls regardless of whether the machine is still covered by its one-year standard limited warranty or whether the warranty has expired. Vermeer will reimburse a retail customer/machine owner when the owner has paid for a repair prior to the product safety alert field campaign. Owner must provide proof of repair. For an owner to obtain reimbursement, owner must inquire with an authorized, independent Vermeer dealer.

How Remedy Component Differs from Recalled Component : NR

Identify How/When Recall Condition was Corrected in Production : NR

Recall Schedule :

Description of Recall Schedule : Dealer notification will begin 03-June-2021 by email with list of affected machines in their area of responsibility. Owner notification letters will be sent 17-June-2021 with translated letters where necessary for their affected units.

Dealer and owner notification will be sent out to all affected dealers and owners. Schedule will be within 60 days.

Dealer revision notification will be within 45 days.

Planned Dealer Notification Date : JUN 23, 2022 - JUN 23, 2022

Planned Owner Notification Date : JUL 07, 2022 - JUL 07, 2022

* NR - Not Reported