

Part 573 Safety Recall Report

22V-498

Manufacturer Name : Big Tex Trailer Manufacturing, Inc.

Submission Date : AUG 12, 2022

NHTSA Recall No. : 22V-498

Manufacturer Recall No. : NR



Manufacturer Information :

Population :

Manufacturer Name : Big Tex Trailer Manufacturing, Inc.

Number of potentially involved : 1,724

Address : 950 I-30 East

Estimated percentage with defect : 100 %

Mt. Pleasant TX 75455

Company phone : 903-575-0300

Vehicle Information :

Vehicle 1 : 2003-2023 Big Tex 16GN

Vehicle Type : TRAILERS

Body Style :

Power Train : NR

Descriptive Information : On all 16GN models manufactured between 10/13/2003 and 7/1/2022, the design of the spare tire mount allows an installed spare tire to vibrate, which can cause the tire mount to fatigue and fail, potentially causing the mount and wheel to separate from the trailer.

Production Dates : OCT 13, 2003 - JUL 11, 2022

VIN Range 1 : Begin :

NR

End : NR

Not sequential

Description of Defect :

Description of the Defect : The spare tire mount allows the spare tire to vibrate which can cause the joint between the spare tire mount and the trailer to fatigue and eventually fail.

FMVSS 1 : NR

FMVSS 2 : NR

Description of the Safety Risk : If the spare tire mount joint fails, the spare tire could detach from the trailer. Separation of the spare tire and mount can create an increased risk of crash, injury or fire.

Description of the Cause : The design of the placement and attachment of the spare tire mount does not firmly hold the tire against the trailer frame, resulting in vibration and joint fatigue. The spare tire mount bracket itself is not the failure point, rather the manner in which it is attached to the trailer, is.

Identification of Any Warning that can Occur : No known warning will precede the failure.

Involved Components :

Component Name 1 : Spare Tire Mount

Component Description : metal bracket which allows a spare tire to be carried on the gooseneck

Component Part Number : Part #5430094; Part #5433542; Part #5433542

Supplier Identification :

Component Manufacturer

Name : Best Fender Products, inc.

Address : 6364 Highway 49 East

Mount Pleasant Texas 75455

Country : United States

Chronology :

Since the beginning of production of this particular model in 2003, there have been a total of 76 warranty claims related to the separation of the spare tire from the trailer. 1 in 2003, 1 in 2013, 1 in 2016, 1 in 2019, 6 in 2020, 30 in 2021 and 36 in the first 6 months of 2022. Investigations began to determine if the failure mode of each claim was similar or different, since the number of failures was increasing. In June 2022 Big Tex Trailers identified a potential situation where the spare tire secured to the spare tire mount on 16GN trailers can vibrate, and over time, fatigue the welded joint between the tire mount and the trailer. This condition could result in the spare tire becoming detached from the trailer. On 1 July, 2022, after completing an investigation into the issue, Big Tex Trailers contained all 16GNs under our control and determined a recall of all 16GNs produced with this condition was prudent. Big Tex Trailers sold 1,724 16GN trailers between 2003 and 2023 with this spare tire mount design. An updated design is available and will be included on future production units. A field fix is in the process of being validated now and will be provided to dealers and customers soon.

Description of Remedy :

Description of Remedy Program : Big Tex will notify all dealers of the recall and request that any trailers currently in their inventory not be sold until a field fix is installed. We will also notify dealers and customers through a customer advisory to remove all spare tires from the mount until the trailer has been inspected and the field fix installed. Big Tex will provide the components and instructions for the field fix to dealers and customers and reimburse them for labor to inspect and perform the necessary repairs. Customers will be notified that they will be reimbursed for reasonable repair costs incurred to repair their trailer, if they were required to repair it prior to the recall being issued. Customers will be asked to submit paid invoices and proof of repair prior to reimbursement.

How Remedy Component Differs from Recalled Component : The field fix will consist of additional components bolted to the trailer frame to eliminate spare tire vibration. The permanent design change will place the spare tire mount in a different location and include additional weld on components to reduce vibration.

Identify How/When Recall Condition was Corrected in Production : A design change has been released to the manufacturing plant and is currently being implemented.

Recall Schedule :

Description of Recall Schedule : A customer advisory is being prepared to notify dealers and customers to cease using the tire mount to carry spare tires. A notification of dealers will begin as soon as practicable after issuance of the recall number by NHTSA. Notification of retail purchasers and registered owners will begin as soon as they are identified and will have notices mailed to them on or before September 9, 2022.

Planned Dealer Notification Date : JUL 27, 2022 - AUG 10, 2022

Planned Owner Notification Date : AUG 26, 2022 - SEP 09, 2022

* NR - Not Reported