

Part 573 Safety Recall Report

22V-576

Manufacturer Name : Charles Machine Works, Inc.**Submission Date :** JAN 10, 2023**NHTSA Recall No. :** 22V-576**Manufacturer Recall No. :** 22V576**Manufacturer Information :**

Manufacturer Name : Charles Machine Works, Inc.

Address : 1959 Fir Street

Box 66 Perry OK 73077

Company phone : 580-572-2223

Population :

Number of potentially involved : 1,087

Estimated percentage with defect : 100 %

Vehicle Information :

Vehicle 1 : 2022-2022 Ditch Witch VT14MV

Vehicle Type :

Body Style :

Power Train : NR

Descriptive Information : Trailers have tires installed that do not meet or exceed the axle weight ratings on the VIN plates per 49 CFR 571.120 section 5.1.2. The first production of these units occurred on June 24, 2022. Those products manufactured on or after that date until the change was discovered on July 18, 2022 are the subject range of potentially affected products.

Production Dates : APR 01, 2020 - JUL 18, 2022

VIN Range 1 : Begin : 1DST522H2N1704601 End : 1DST522H8N1704604 Not sequential

Vehicle 2 : 2020-2022 Ditch Witch VT14

Vehicle Type :

Body Style :

Power Train : NR

Descriptive Information : Trailers have tires installed that do not meet or exceed the axle weight ratings on the VIN plates per 49 CFR 571.120 section 5.1.2. Tire change occurred on September 1, 2020. Those products manufactured on or after that date until the change was discovered on July 19, 2022 are the subject range of potentially affected products.

Production Dates : SEP 01, 2020 - JUL 19, 2022

VIN Range 1 : Begin : 1DST522E0L1702459 End : 1DST522E4N1702371 Not sequential

Vehicle 3 : 2020-2022 Ditch Witch VT12

Vehicle Type :

Body Style :

Power Train : NR

Descriptive Information : Trailers have tires installed that do not meet or exceed the axle weight ratings on the VIN plates per 49 CFR 571.120 section 5.1.2. Tire change occurred on April 1, 2020. Those products manufactured on or after that date until the change was discovered on September 22, 2022 are the subject range of potentially affected products.

Production Dates : APR 01, 2020 - SEP 22, 2022

VIN Range 1 : Begin :	1DST522D1L1702896	End :	1DST522D7L1702983	<input type="checkbox"/> Not sequential
VIN Range 2 : Begin :	1DST522DXM1702901	End :	1DST522D6M1703091	<input type="checkbox"/> Not sequential
VIN Range 3 : Begin :	1DST522D8N1702901	End :	1DST522D5N1703004	<input type="checkbox"/> Not sequential
VIN Range 4 : Begin :	1DST522D9n1703006	End :	1DST522D1N1703016	<input type="checkbox"/> Not sequential
VIN Range 5 : Begin :	1DST522D7N1703019	End :	1DST522D0N1703024	<input type="checkbox"/> Not sequential
VIN Range 6 : Begin :	1DST522D4N1703026	End :	1DST522D9N1703037	<input type="checkbox"/> Not sequential
VIN Range 7 : Begin :	1DST522D2N1703039	End :	1DST522D4N1703043	<input type="checkbox"/> Not sequential

Vehicle 4 : 2020-2022 Ditch Witch VT24

Vehicle Type :

Body Style :

Power Train : NR

Descriptive Information : Trailers have tires installed that do not meet or exceed the axle weight ratings on the VIN plates per 49 CFR 571.120 section 5.1.2. Tire change occurred on September 1, 2020. Those products manufactured on or after that date until the change was discovered on July 19, 2022 are the subject range of potentially affected products.

Production Dates : SEP 01, 2020 - JUL 19, 2022

VIN Range 1 : Begin :	1DST722M711701827	End :	1DST722M8N1701581	<input type="checkbox"/> Not sequential
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Description of Noncompliance :

Description of the Noncompliance : 49 CFR 571.120 Sect. 5.1.2 requires that the sum of the maximum load ratings of the tires fitted to an axle shall not be less than the gross axle weight rating (GAWR) of the axle system as specified on the trailer's certification label. The affected trailers were shipped with a GAWR on the certification label that is greater than the tire ratings. For the VT24 trailer, the GAWR on the label was 12,000 lbs. per axle, and the installed tires are rated at 5,675 lbs each, which supports a maximum GAWR of 11,350 lbs per axle. For the VT12, VT14, and VT14MV trailers, the axle ratings were 7,000 lbs per axle, and the installed tires are rated at 3,420 lbs each, which supports a maximum GAWR of 6,840 lbs per axle. When affected trailer models are designed and intended to carry only permanently mounted vacuum excavator equipment and the fluid that is vacuumed into the tank. The trailers are designed such that, when they are loaded to their maximum GVWR, the axle weights are below the GAWR on the certification label, and the installed tires are sufficient to carry the loaded trailer. When the VT24 trailer is loaded to its GVWR of 24,000 lbs, the maximum axle weight will be 22,200 lbs, or 11,100 lbs per axle. The installed tires support a GAWR of 11,350 lbs each. When the VT14 or VT14MV trailers are loaded to their GVWR of 14,000 lbs, the maximum axle weight will be 13,000 lbs, or 6,500 lbs per axle. The installed tires support a GAWR of 6,840 lbs each. When the VT12 trailers are loaded to their GVWR of 12,000 lbs, the maximum axle weight will be 10,300 lbs, or 5,150 lbs per axle. The installed tires support a GAWR of 6,840 lbs each.

FMVSS 1 : NR

FMVSS 2 : NR

Description of the Safety Risk : If the trailer is loaded in a way that places the maximum load on an axle as currently stated, there is a possibility that the load rating of one or more of the tires will be exceeded. If this occurs, there is a potential for tire failure, which could result in the loss of control of the vehicle and could result in a crash without prior warning.

The tires fitted on the trailers are capable of safely carrying the trailers' maximum GVWR. However, if the customer loads the trailer axles to the GAWR on the VIN plate, the trailer GVWR and the tire load ratings will be exceeded, which is why the recall will involve providing corrected VIN (certification) plates and corrected instructions identifying the correct axle weight rating and tire pressure. There have been 0 reported incidents in the field and 0 reported injuries.

Description of the Cause : NR

Identification of Any Warning that can Occur : NR

Involved Components :

Component Name 1 : This is inapplicable.

Component Description : This noncompliance does not involve a component.

Component Part Number : NR

Supplier Identification :

Component Manufacturer

Name : NR

Address : NR

NR

Country : NR

Chronology :

Ditch Witch originally understood the ratings to be a non-compliance issue pursuant to labeling requirements and submitted an Inconsequential Non-Compliance petition on August 26, 2022. After further review, Ditch Witch would like to conduct a recall to correct the labeling.

Description of Remedy :

Description of Remedy Program : Dealers and customers will be notified of the correct axle weight rating for the installed tires. A corrected certification label (VIN plate) and corrected operator instructions with updated ratings and revised tire pressure recommendations will be provided with the correct axle weight rating.

How Remedy Component Differs from Recalled Component : Ditch Witch is not recalling a component; it is providing corrected GAWR ratings and corrected operator instructions for the trailers.

Identify How/When Recall Condition was Corrected in Production : On July 18, 2022, the VT24, VT14, and the VT14MV certification plates were corrected, and production with the new certification plates began on July 19, 2022. On September 21, 2022, the VT certification plates were corrected, and production with the new certification plates began on September 22, 2022.

Recall Schedule :

Description of Recall Schedule : All dealer notifications were sent by 11/23/2022. All owner notifications were sent by 12/30/2022. Both steps have been completed.

Planned Dealer Notification Date : NOV 21, 2022 - NOV 23, 2022

Planned Owner Notification Date : DEC 19, 2022 - DEC 30, 2022

* NR - Not Reported