



U.S. Department of Transportation  
**National Highway Traffic Safety  
Administration**

1200 New Jersey Avenue SE  
Washington, DC 20590

August 9, 2023

Ms. AJ Schuler  
Customer Service  
Lakota Corporation  
4 Stoutco Drive  
Bristol, IN 46507

NEF-107DC  
23V-550

**Subject:** Axle Carrier May Break

Dear Ms. Schuler:

This letter serves to acknowledge Lakota Corporation's notification to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) of a safety recall which will be conducted pursuant to Federal law for the product(s) listed below. Please review the following information to ensure that it conforms to your records as this information is being made available to the public. If the information does not agree with your records, please contact us immediately to discuss your concerns.

**Makes/Models/Model Years:**

LAKOTA/BIGHORN/2020-2023  
LAKOTA/CHARGER/2020-2023

**Mfr's Report Date:** August 3, 2023

**NHTSA Campaign Number:** 23V-550

**Components:**

SUSPENSION: MULTIPLE AXLE

**Potential Number of Units Affected:** 65

**Problem Description:**

Lakota Corporation (Lakota) is recalling certain 2020-2023 Bighorn and Charger Triple Axle 5&6 horse trailers. The main rails of the axle carrier may have been manufactured with an insufficient gauge steel, which can cause the carrier to break.

**Consequence:**

A broken axle carrier can cause the axles and tires to fail, increasing the risk of a crash.

**Remedy:**

The remedy is currently under development. Owner notification letters are expected to be mailed August 28, 2023. Owners may contact Lakota customer service at 1-574-848-1636.

**Notes:**

Owners may also contact the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration Vehicle Safety Hotline at 1-888-327-4236 (TTY 1-800-424-9153), or go to [www.nhtsa.gov](http://www.nhtsa.gov).

Please ensure the following requirements are met:

An identification and description of the risk to motor vehicle safety reasonably related to the defect or noncompliance (49 CFR 573.6 (c)(5)). All filings should state an increased risk of either a crash, injury or fire.

AMENDED 573 REQUIRED.

A description of the manufacturer's program for remedying the defect or noncompliance (49 CFR 573.6 (c)(8)(i)).

AMENDED 573 REQUIRED.

Please be reminded of the following requirements:

You are required to submit a draft owner notification letter to this office no less than five days prior to mailing it to the customers. Also, copies of all notices, bulletins, dealer notifications, and other communications that relate to this recall, including a copy of the final owner notification letter and any subsequent owner follow-up notification letter(s), are required to be submitted to this office no later than 5 days after they are originally sent (if they are sent to more than one manufacturer, distributor, dealer, or purchaser/owner).

Please be reminded that under 49 U.S.C. § 30112(a)(3), it is illegal for a manufacturer, to sell, offer for sale, import, or introduce or deliver into interstate commerce, a motor vehicle or item of motor vehicle equipment that contains a safety defect once the manufacturer has notified NHTSA about that safety defect. This prohibition does not apply once the motor vehicle or motor vehicle equipment has been remedied according to the manufacturer's instructions.

As stated in 49 U.S.C. § 30118(f), submission of eight consecutive quarterly reports followed by three annual reports is required. As described in 573.7, submission of the first of eight consecutive quarterly status reports is required within one month after the close of the calendar quarter in which notification to purchasers occurs. Therefore, the first quarterly report will be due on, or before, 30 days after the close of the calendar quarter. The first of three consecutive annual status reports will be due on, or before, 1 year after the eighth quarterly report was submitted.

Lakota Corporation's contact for this recall will be Debora Crews who may be reached by email at [debora.crews@dot.gov](mailto:debora.crews@dot.gov). We look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,



Alex Ansley  
Chief, Recall Management Division  
Office of Defects Investigation  
Enforcement