



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

1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

February 12, 2024

Mr. William Amato
R.H. Sheppard Co., Inc.
901 Cleveland St
Elyria, OH 44035

NEF-107KL
24E-010

Subject: Steering Gear Shaft May Fracture

Dear Mr. Amato:

This letter serves to acknowledge R.H. Sheppard Co., Inc.'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:

SHEPARD/STEERING GEARS/9999

Mfr's Report Date: February 9, 2024

NHTSA Campaign Number: 24E-010

Components:

STEERING:GEAR BOX:SHAFT SECTOR

Potential Number of Units Affected: 456

Problem Description:

R.H. Sheppard Co., Inc. (R.H. Sheppard) is recalling certain steering gears. Please see the recall report for a complete list of all affected models and part numbers. The steering gear sector shaft may have been improperly heat-treated, which can cause the gear teeth to crack or fracture.

Consequence:

A fractured steering gear shaft can cause a loss of steering control, increasing the risk of a crash.

Remedy:

R.H. Sheppard will work with the vehicle manufacturers to replace the steering gears, free of charge. Affected vehicle manufacturers are expected to be notified in February 2024. Owners may contact R.H. Sheppard customer service at 1-717-637-3751.

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.safercar.gov.

Please ensure the following requirements are met:

Based on the provided remedy plan, it appears that your company may not be able to provide the required recall completion rate quarterly reports. If another company intends to file the report with detailed information about your company's remedy counts, please state so in the remedy section of the 573.

AMENDED 573 REQUIRED.

Please be reminded of the following requirements:

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.

R.H. Sheppard Co., Inc.'s contact for this recall will be Kristin Lepper who may be reached by email at kristin.lepper@dot.gov. We look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,



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