

Part 573 Safety Recall Report

24E-031

Manufacturer Name : Watson & Chalin Manufacturing, Inc.

Submission Date : APR 03, 2024

NHTSA Recall No. : 24E-031

Manufacturer Recall No. : W&C 2024-01



Manufacturer Information :

Population :

Manufacturer Name : Watson & Chalin Manufacturing, Inc.

Number of potentially involved : 24

Address : 725 East University Drive

Estimated percentage with defect : 95 %

McKinney TX 75069

Company phone : 972-547-6020

Equipment Information :

Brand / Trade 1 : W&C

Model : SL2065

Part No. : 160131

Size : 20,000 lb. rated capacity

Function : Lift axles

Descriptive Information : A limited number of Watson & Chalin ("W&C") SL2065 steerable auxiliary lift axle suspension assemblies are equipped with bearing journals that may not have been seated correctly to the backbones of the left and right-side steering knuckle assembly components during manufacture.

Production Dates : DEC 08, 2023 - DEC 08, 2023

Description of Defect :

Description of the Defect : The above-referenced bearing journals may not be fully seated to the backbones of the left and right-side steering knuckle assembly components in order for the wheel end hub assemblies to be properly installed.

FMVSS 1 : NR

FMVSS 2 : NR

Description of the Safety Risk : In some cases, the above-referenced condition may cause a loss of oil lubricant from the wheel end hub assemblies. Over an extended period of operation, use of the lift axle suspension assemblies in this condition can result in (1) the respective axle spindles to become loose from the steering knuckle assemblies or otherwise fracture and/or (2) wheel end hub damage. This can further result in foreign object debris on the roadway, increasing the risk of a crash and/or injury. W&C has not received any field reports of any such occurrences or any associated accidents.

Description of the Cause : The supplier of the steering knuckle assembly components identified excessive

Identification of Any Warning that can Occur : wear on the tooling used to install the journal rings and inadequate quality measurements performed after such installations. Potential signs of oil lubricant leaking from the wheel end hub assemblies.

Involved Components :

Component Name : Steering knuckle assemblies

Component Description : Steering knuckle assemblies equipped with bearing journals

Component Part Number : multiple part numbers

Supplier Identification :

Component Manufacturer

Name : Hendrickson USA, L.L.C.

Address : 2021 Parkside Drive
Schaumburg Illinois 60173

Country : United States

Chronology :

10/20/2023 – W&C received preliminary information regarding a potential condition associated with bearing journals not being fully seated on certain steering knuckle assembly components that Hendrickson had supplied to W&C. Such steering knuckle assembly components were equipped on a limited number of W&C SL2065 steerable auxiliary lift axle suspension assemblies.

11/13/2023 – W&C provided Peterbilt Motors Company and Kenworth Truck Company with preliminary information regarding the above-referenced potential condition associated with steering knuckle assembly components equipped on a limited number of W&C SL2065 steerable auxiliary lift axle suspension assemblies.

11/17/2023 – W&C created a new replacement axle subassembly part number intended for installation on affected W&C SL2065 steerable auxiliary lift axle suspension assemblies.

12/08/2023 – W&C started manufacture of the replacement axle subassemblies (including steering knuckles, brakes, hubs, shocks and tie rod assembly components, along with a hardware kit).

12/20/2023 – W&C started (1) shipping the replacement axle subassemblies to appropriate locations as designated by Peterbilt Motors Company and Kenworth Truck Company and (2) and started assisting, as-needed, Peterbilt, Kenworth, and their respective dealers, body builder installers, and/or end user trucking

fleets with installation, per W&C instructions, of replacement axle subassemblies on affected W&C SL2065 lift axle suspension assemblies.

Description of Remedy :

Description of Remedy Program : W&C will send a formal notification to its affected commercial vehicle customers of this issue and recommendation they and/or their applicable customers who own any vehicles equipped with the affected W&C SL2065 lift axle suspension assemblies (all manufactured on 12/08/2023) to work with W&C to arrange for and install, per W&C instructions, replacement axle subassemblies free of charge. Such replacement axle subassemblies include steering knuckles, brakes, hubs, shocks and tie rod assembly components, along with a hardware kit. W&C will manage and track all shipments of replacement axle subassemblies. W&C will provide, as applicable, standard allocation of labor hours for installation of the replacement axle subassemblies.

How Remedy Component Differs from Recalled Component : The replacement axle subassemblies include new steering knuckles (with journal rings that are fully seated into the knuckle backbones), brakes, hubs, shocks and tie rod assembly components, along with a hardware kit.

Identify How/When Recall Condition was Corrected in Production : 10/20/2023 – Upon receipt of preliminary information regarding the potential steering knuckle condition, W&C inspected and contained all applicable steering knuckle supplied components and completed W&C SL2065 lift axle suspension assemblies within its inventory and not yet shipped to customers.

Recall Schedule :

Description of Recall Schedule : W&C has already informally notified its applicable customers regarding this matter and has starting assisting them with (1) locating affected SL2065 lift axle suspension assemblies, (2) shipping replacement axle subassemblies to appropriate locations as designated by Peterbilt Motors Company and Kenworth Truck Company, and (3) assisting, as-needed, Peterbilt, Kenworth, and their respective dealers, body builder installers, and/or end user trucking fleets with installation, per W&C instructions, of replacement axle subassemblies on affected W&C SL2065 lift axle suspension assemblies. Formal updated notifications will start within 30 days.

Planned Dealer Notification Date : NR - NR

Planned Owner Notification Date : NR - NR

Purchaser Information :

The following manufacturers purchased this defective/noncompliant equipment for possible use or installation in new motor vehicles or new items of motor vehicle equipment:

Name : Peterbilt Motors Company

Address : 3200 Airport Road
Denton TX 76207

Country : US

Company Phone : 940-220-2760

Name : Kenworth Truck Company

Address : 10630 NE 38th Place
Kirkland WA 98033

Country : US

Company Phone : 425-828-5000

* NR - Not Reported