

Chronology

(Description of Principal Events Leading Up to the Recall Decision)

Description of Chronology:**

In June 2023, Worldwide Distribution was advised by one of its distributors that a vehicle manufacturer had observed the presence of air bubbles in the purge valves of certain 8” LP tanks when the tanks were being tested prior to installation. Worldwide Distribution provided the manufacturer with replacement valves and requested that the vehicle manufacturer return the original valves for further review and analysis. The originally installed valves were received in August 2023 and further analysis did not reveal any issue with the parts. Further, as part of the tank assembly process, all LP tanks undergo a batch inspection process by ASME for the presence of leaks. The inspection did not reveal any concerns for these particular products. In the interim, LP tanks produced with valves from the same sub-supplier were quarantined by the LP tank assembler and a new design for the valve was introduced at the manufacturing facility until the issue could be better understood. Worldwide Distribution was also advised, through its distributor, that another vehicle manufacturer using the same part was not experiencing the same or similar type of issues with the performance of these valves. At the time, it was believed that the presence of the air bubbles was related to the vehicle manufacturer’s process for testing for leaks prior to installation.

In late October 2023, Worldwide Distribution received information that another vehicle manufacturer had observed the presence of air bubbles in the purge valves of some units. Worldwide Distribution was informed that all of the suspect units had been quarantined and replacement parts were provided.

In December 2023, Worldwide Distribution was advised that a dealer for a vehicle manufacturer had reported several instances of leaking valves in certain LP tanks. In December and January 2024, Worldwide Distribution issued a communication that included instructions on how to properly test the LP tanks prior to first fill.

Upon further evaluating the issue, on January 29, 2024, Worldwide Distribution determined that a safety related defect exists in the above referenced LP tanks. Worldwide Distribution is not aware of any accidents or injuries related to this condition.