

Bucher Municipal North America Inc.
Street Sweeper Rear Door Pin
Basis of Safety Defect Determination 573.6(c)(6) Chronology

A foreign affiliate located in the United Kingdom, Bucher Municipal Limited (BML), manufactures the V-Series street sweeper machines, which are sold to Bucher Municipal North America Inc. (BMNA), and mounted by BMNA to vehicles for sale into North America.

Around March 13, 2024, BML informed BMNA that it sought to issue technical bulletins to BMNA's dealers regarding the sweeper's rear hydraulic door. Over the next several weeks, BMNA came to learn from BML the following: (1) A fatality occurred in the UK on December 22, 2023, to an operator of a VT651 truck mounted sweeper manufactured and sold by BML in the UK; (2) BML examined the sweeper to discover the pin in the rear door had broken which may have caused the door to fall striking the operator; (3) UK authorities are investigating this incident; and (4) BML investigated potential causes for the pin failure and solutions to correct it, and in February and March 2024 BML created a series of technical bulletins for prevention (inspection of pin and installation of retaining bracket, known as TB1813), correction (replacement of pin, known as TB1816) and information updates (product warning decals and updated operating instructions, known as TB1811) surrounding the affected sweeper component.

On March 13, 2024, BML requested BMNA notify its dealers of TB1813.

On March 26, 2024, BMNA sent the principal owners of its U.S. dealers a notice that TB1813 would be forthcoming.

On April 2 and April 4, 2024, BMNA sent BML's TB1813 by email to its U.S. dealers to notify them of the pin inspection request and availability of the safety bracket.

Around April 18, 2024, BMNA learned from BML that prior to the UK fatality, BML had notice of six instances of reported pin failures worldwide from November 2018 to November 2020. None involved reports of injuries. One of the six reported failures was reported from the U.S. in July 2019. Other than this one 2019 report, BMNA has located no other pin failure reports or warranty claims for this pin.

On April 22, 2024, BMNA learned that BML filed a notice in late February 2024 with UK's Driver & Vehicle Standards Agency entitled Notification of Intention to Recall relating to the rear door cylinder covering only TB1813 for pin inspection and installation of the retaining bracket. BML had created and made available the retaining bracket for the rear door cylinder, which it reported through a technical bulletin (known as TB 1776) sent by BML to BMNA in December 2021. It was not filed as a recall in the UK by BML.

BMNA has not conducted its own tests of the affected pin, but after learning of and reviewing the information provided by BML, BMNA has determined a defect in the pin may exist and that that all three technical bulletins (TB 1813, TB1811 and TB1816) should be issued as a recall of the affected street sweeper vehicles in the United States.