U.S. Department of Transportation

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

October 20, 2026

26V656

Barry Mitchell
Great Dane Trailers
P.O. Box 67
Savannah, GA 31402

Subject: Do Not Tow: Incorrect Plate in Coupler May Cause Trailer to Detach

Dear Barry Mitchell:

This letter serves to acknowledge Great Dane Trailers'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:
GREAT DANE/CHAMPION/2027

Mfr's Report Date: October 06, 2026

NHTSA Campaign Number: 26V656

Components:
TRAILER HITCHES

Potential Number of Units Affected: 69

Problem Description:
Great Dane Trailers (Great Dane) is recalling certain 2027 Champion dry van trailers. The upper coupler may have an incorrect bottom plate installed. The kingpin may protrude, preventing the trailer from coupling properly.

Consequence:
An improperly coupled trailer may detach, increasing the risk of a crash.

Remedy:
Owners are advised not to use their trailers until the repair is completed. Great Dane will inspect and replace the upper coupler assembly as necessary, free of charge. Owner notification letters are expected to be mailed December 4, 2026. Owners may contact Great Dane's customer service at 1-877-369-3493.

Notes:
Owners may also contact the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration Vehicle Safety Hotline at 1-888-327-4236 (TTY 1-888-275-9171), or go to www.nhtsa.gov.

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.

Great Dane Trailers's contact for this recall will be Hensly Guerra who may be reached by email at hensly.guerra1@dot.gov. We look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

Alex Ansley

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