

**PART 573 Defect Report #2 - Revised 2/24/03**

On February 4, 2003 The Charles Machine Works, Inc. determined that a defect which relates to motor vehicle safety exists in the motor vehicles listed below, and is furnishing notification to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration in accordance with 49 CFR Part 573 Defect and Noncompliance Reports.

The initial report was prepared on February 12, 2003. This revised report was prepared on February 24, 2003.

The manufacturer's identification code for this recall is 052-995.

1. Identify the full corporate name of the fabrication manufacturer of the recalled vehicles.

**The Charles Machine Works, Inc.  
PO Box 66  
1950 West Fir Street  
Perry, OK 73077**

Identify the corporate official, by name and title, which the agency should contact with respect to this recall.

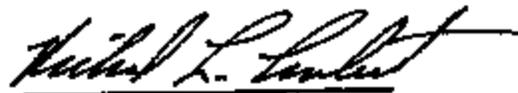
**Richard L. Lambert  
Product Safety Coordinator  
580-572-2480  
580-572-3525  
rlambert@ditchwitch.com**

Telephone Number  
Facsimile  
E mail

Name and Title of Person who prepared this report

**Richard L. Lambert  
Product Safety Coordinator**

Signed



RECALL 03V046000

1. Identifying the Vehicle Models Involved in the Recall

2. Identify the Vehicles Involved in the Recall, for each make and model or applicable vehicle line (provide illustrations or photographs as necessary to describe the vehicle), provide:

Make(s): Ditch Witch  
Model(s): S7B  
Model Years Involved: Not Applicable  
Production Date: January 2002  
VIN: 1DSB181JX217W0662  
Vehicle Type: Trailer Bodystyle: Not Applicable  
Descriptive information which characterizes/distinguishes the recalled vehicles from those model vehicles not included in the recall: VIN

Make(s): Ditch Witch  
Model(s): T9S  
Model Years Involved: Not Applicable  
Production Dates: See List  
VIN: See List

<u>VIN</u>	<u>Date Manufactured</u>
1DSB122R6217W2028	4-24-02
1DSB122R2217W2039	5-30-02
1DSB122R3217W2051	6-14-02
1DSB122R2217W2056	6-21-02 (dealer's inventory)
1DSB122R4217W2057	6-28-02
1DSB122R6217W2058	6-27-02
1DSB122R8217W2059	7-23-02
1DSB122R4217W2060	8-21-02
1DSB122R6217W2061	7-30-02
1DSB122R8217W2062	8-05-02 (dealer's inventory)
1DSB122RX217W2063	8-05-02 (dealer's inventory)
1DSB122R1217W2064	8-21-02
1DSB122R3217W2065	10-01-02
1DSB122RX217W2060	10-23-02
1DSB122R1217W2081	11-15-02
1DSB122R1317X2501	1-16-03 (dealer's inventory, corrected)
1DSB122R3317X2502	1-28-03 (dealer's inventory, corrected)

Vehicle Type: Trailer Bodystyle: Not Applicable  
Descriptive information which characterizes/distinguishes the recalled vehicles from those model vehicles not included in the recall: VIN.

RECALL 03V046000

Identify the approximate percentage of the production of all the recalled models manufactured by your company between the inclusive dates of manufacture provided above, that the recalled model population represents.

**100% of those with hydraulic brakes**

II. Identifying the Recalled Population

3. Furnish the total number of vehicles recalled potentially containing the defect or noncompliance.

Model	Year	Number of Vehicles Potentially Involved
S7B	2002	1
T9S	2002 - 2003	17
Total Number Potentially Affected by the Recall:		18 Trailers

4. Furnish the approximate percentage of the total number of vehicles estimated to actually contain the defect or noncompliance: **unknown.**

Identify and describe how the recall population was determined – in particular how the recalled models were selected and the basis for the inclusive date of manufacture:

**We are recalling all trailers of these two models equipped with hydraulic brakes.**

III. Identifying the Defect or Noncompliance

5. Describe the defect or noncompliance. The description should include the nature and physical location of the defect or noncompliance. Illustrations should be provided as appropriate.

**Brakes are not adjusted properly and/or the systems contain trapped air.**

If this report is for a noncompliance, identify the applicable section of the standard:

**Not applicable**

Describe the cause(s) of the defect or noncompliance condition.

**Inadequate brake system adjustment procedure.**

Describe the consequence(s) of the defect or noncompliance condition.

**Brakes may have reduced effectiveness and/or the breakaway brakes may not work.**

Identify any warning which can (a) proceed or (b) occur.

**Brakes may have reduced effectiveness and/or the breakaway brakes may not work.**

If the defect or noncompliance is in a component or assembly purchased from a supplier, identify the supplier by corporate name and address.

**Not Applicable**

Identify the name and title of the chief executive officer or knowledgeable representative of the supplier:

**Not Applicable**

**IV. Identify the Chronology in Determining the Defect/Noncompliance**

*If the recall is for a defect, complete item 6, other wise item 7.*

6. With respect to a defect, furnish a chronological summary (including dates) of all the principle events that were the basis for the determination of the defect. The summary should include, but not be limited to, the number of reports, accidents, injuries, fatalities, and warranty claims.

**Reported Failures**

- 2-4-03 Ditch Witch dealership reported that they were unable to get the hydraulic brakes on a trailer to work properly.  
2-12-03 The Charles Machine Works suspected that the brake actuators did not work properly.  
2-14-03 The Charles Machine Works determined that the problem was a result of trapped air and/or improper adjustment.

**Accidents, Injuries, & Fatalities**                      **None**

**Decision to Recall the Trailers**                      **February 12, 2003**

7. With respect to a noncompliance, identify and provide the test results or other data (in chronological order including dates) on which the noncompliance was determined.

**Not Applicable**

**V. Identify the Remedy**

**RECALL 03VD46000**

8. **Furnish a description of the manufacturer's remedy for the defect or noncompliance. Clearly describe the differences between the recall condition and the remedy.**

**The Charles Machine Works will have Ditch Witch dealerships bleed the brake systems and adjust the brakes.**

**Clearly describe the distinguishing characteristics of the remedy component/assembly versus the recalled component/assembly.**

**VIN and correct brake operation**

**Identify and describe how and when the recall condition was corrected in production. If the production remedy was identical to the recall remedy in the field, so state. If the product was discontinued, so state.**

**Brake system bleeding and adjustment procedure has been changed.**

**VI. Recall Schedule**

**Furnish a schedule or agenda (with specific dates) for notification to other manufacturers, dealers/retailers, and purchasers. Please, identify any foreseeable problems with implementing the recall.**

<b>2-21-03</b>	<b>Notify Ditch Witch dealers of the recall</b>
<b>2-24-03</b>	<b>Notify customers by facsimile and phone of the recall</b>
<b>2-24-03</b>	<b>Mail letters to customers</b>

**VII. Recall Communications**

8. **Furnish a final copy of all notices, bulletins, and other communications that relate directly to the defect or noncompliance and which are sent to more than one manufacturer, distributor, or purchaser. This includes all communications concerning this recall from the time your company determines the defect or noncompliance condition on, not just the initial notification. A DRAFT copy of the notification documents SHOULD BE submitted to this office by telefax (FAX: 202-366-7882) for review prior to mailing.**

**See attached draft letters**

**Note that these documents are to be submitted separately from those provided in accordance with Part 573.8 requirements.**

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## Safety Notice

Recall Code 03V046000

**This notice is being sent to you in accordance with the requirements of the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act.**

**To: (Specific Owner of Ditch Witch Trailer)**

The Charles Machine Works, Inc., manufacturer of Ditch Witch trailers, has determined that a defect which relates to motor vehicle safety may exist in your trailer, Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) (Specific VIN).

**Defect Description** – The brakes on your trailer may not be properly adjusted and/or air may be trapped in the brake system.

**Potential Hazard** – The service brakes may not be effective and/or the emergency brakes may not stop the trailer if it becomes detached from the tow vehicle.

**What You Should Do** – Check the brakes on your trailer with the above VIN. Follow these steps:

- Move the emergency brake lever to the brake's second detent in the ON (forward) position
- Pull the trailer with the tow vehicle to see if brakes are effective. The trailer should be hard to move on dry concrete, but should not slide the trailer wheels.
- If the brakes are not effective, do not use your trailer. Contact your Ditch Witch dealership. They will come to your location and bleed air from the brake system and adjust the brakes.

**What The Charles Machine Works, Inc. Will Do** – This work will be performed free of charge by your nearest Ditch Witch dealership. Estimated repair time is 3 hours per trailer.

You may submit a complaint to the Administrator, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 400 Seventh Street, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20590 or call the toll free 1-888-327-4236 (Washington, D.C. area residents may call 1-202-366-0123). If you believe that The Charles Machine Works, Inc. or your Ditch Witch dealership has failed or is unable to remedy the defect or noncompliance without charge and within a reasonable time.

THE CHARLES MACHINE WORKS, INC.  
P.O. BOX 66 • PERRY, OKLAHOMA 73077

**IMPORTANT SAFETY NOTIFICATION**  
**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

**Ditch Witch**  
THE POWER OF  
UTILITY