

Safety Defect and Noncompliance Report Guide for Vehicles
PART 573 Defect and Noncompliance Report¹

On February 6, 2003, American Wire Wheel, LLC decided that a defect, which relates to motor vehicle safety, exists in terms of motor vehicle equipment listed below, and is furnishing notification to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration in accordance with 49 CFR Part 573 Defect and Noncompliance Reports.

Date this report was prepared: February 12, 2003

Furnish the manufacturer's identification code for this recall (if applicable): _____

1. Identify the full corporate name of the fabricating manufacturer of the equipment being recalled. If the recalled vehicle is imported, provide the name and mailing address of the designated agent as prescribed by 49 U.S.C. §30164.

Dayton Wire Wheel, Inc.
115 Compark Road
Dayton, Ohio 45459

RECEIVED
FEB 13 AM 10:31
OFFICE OF DEFECTS
INVESTIGATION

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

Charles G. Schroeder
President

Telephone Number: (937) 438-0100 Fax No.: (937) 438-1215

Name and Title of Person who prepared this report.

Charles G. Schroeder
President

Signed:

¹Each manufacturer must furnish a report, to the Associate Administrator for Safety Assurance, for each defect or noncompliance condition which relates to motor vehicle safety.

This guide was developed from 49 CFR Part 573, "Defect and Noncompliance Reports" and also outlines information currently requested. Any questions, please consult the complete Part 573 or contact Mr. Jon White at (202) 366-5227 or by FAX at (202) 366-7882.

I. Identify the Recalled Items of Equipment

2. Identify the items of equipment involved in the recall, for each make and model or applicable vehicle line (provide illustrations or photographs as necessary to describe the vehicle), provide:

Generic Name of the Item: SuperSpokeII

Make: American Wire Wheel, LLC

Model(s): 40 Spoke Radial

Part Number(s): M0163540S-184

Model Year: 2003

Wheel Size(s): 16 x 3.5 (Rear)

Function: Road Wheel

Generic Name of the Item: SuperSpoke

Make: American Wire Wheel, Inc., A Division of Hulcher Enterprises

Model(s): 40 Spoke Radial

Part Number(s): M12121540S-200, M32121540S-200

Model Year: 2002

Wheel Size(s): 21x2.15 (Front)

Function: Road Wheel

Other information which characterizes/distinguishes the items of equipment to be recalled:

Aftermarket replacement wheels for Harley Davidson Motorcycles shipped from American Wire Wheel, LLC (Dayton, Ohio) during the month of January 2003.

Identify the approximate percentage of the production of all the recalled models manufactured by your company that the recalled model population represents. For example, if the recall involved Widgets equipped with certain items of equipment from January 1, 1996 through April 1, 1997, then what was the percentage of the recalled Widgets of all Widgets manufactured during that time period.

100%

II. Identify the Recall Population

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

<u>Model</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Manufacturer</u>	<u>Number of items Potentially Involved</u>
M0163540S-184	2003	American Wire Wheel, LLC (Dayton, Ohio)	24
M12121540S-200	2002	AWW, Inc. / Hulcher Enterprises (Denton, TX)	7
M32121540S-200	2002	AWW, Inc. / Hulcher Enterprises (Denton, TX)	1

Total Number Potentially Affected by the Recall: 32

4. Furnish the approximate percentage of the total number of items of equipment estimated to actually contain the defect or noncompliance: 100%

Identify and describe how the recall population was determined—in particular how the recalled models were selected and the basis for the beginning and final dates of manufacture of the recalled vehicles:

To date, the thirty-two units are the only wheels of this type distributed by American Wire Wheel, LLC. The twenty-four rear wheels (P/N M0163540S-184) were manufactured by American Wire Wheel, LLC in Dayton, Ohio. The seven front wheels (P/N M12121540S-200) were manufactured by American Wire Wheel, Inc., a Division of Hulcher Enterprises, in Denton, Texas. The remaining front wheel (P/N M32121540S-200) was manufactured by American Wire Wheel, Inc., a Division of Hulcher Enterprises, in Denton, Texas. The collective wheels listed above constitute the entire population of the recall. They were selected by and are uniquely distinguished by the fact that they are the entire population of SuperSpoke / SuperSpokeII wheels shipped by American Wire Wheel, LLC. (Dayton, Ohio).

Global Motorsport Parts was shipped 14 rear wheels (M0163540S-184) on January 29, 2003.

LeMans Corporation was shipped 10 rear wheels (M0163540S-184) on January 31, 2003.

LeMans Corporation was shipped 2 front wheels (M12121540S-200) on January 17, 2003.

Lemans Corporation was shipped 5 front wheels (M12121540S-200) on January 28, 2003.

Topeka Harley-Davidson was shipped 1 front wheel (M32121540S-200) as a warranty replacement on January 24, 2003.

III. Describe the Defect or Noncompliance

5. Describe the defect or noncompliance. The description should address the nature and physical location of the defect or noncompliance. Illustrations should be provided as appropriate.
The wheels have the potential for complete failure while in use due to steel spokes pulling out of the machined aluminum hub.

Describe the cause(s) of the defect or noncompliance condition.
Cause can be linked to one of the following and / or a combination of the following:

- 1. Design deficiencies
- 2. Third party component parts did not meet specifications / prints
- 3. Poor quality control

Describe the consequence(s) of the defect or noncompliance condition.
Potential for vehicle crash and resultant serious injuries to riders and passengers.

Identify any warning which can (a) precede or (b) occur.
Possible vibration or wheel wobble may precede failure.

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

Component part: 3/8 inch spokes Supplied by: A.J. Fasteners, Inc.

2800 E. Miraloma Ave.

Anaheim, CA 92806

(714) 630-1556 Voice

(714) 630-5786 Fax

Identify the name and title of the chief executive officer or knowledgeable representative of the supplier:
Knowledgeable representative: Mr. Kieth Jensen

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

Component part: SuperSpoke Machined Aluminum Hubs found exclusively in part numbers

(P/N M12121540S-200 and M32121540S-200).

Supplied by:	Extreme Machine
	1028 Shady Oaks Drive
	Denton, Texas 76205
	Phone / Fax Unknown

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

Knowledgeable representative: Mr. Tom Fox

IV. Provide the Chronology in Determining the Defect/Noncompliance

If the recall is for a defect, complete item 6, otherwise 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.

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

Response to 6: On September 3, 2002, Dayton Wheel Concepts, Inc. (Dayton) purchased the assets of American Wire Wheel, Inc. (AWW), a Texas Corporation and formed a new corporation titled American Wire Wheel, LLC. The purchase included all materials related to AWW's production of a "SuperSpoke" model wheel (i.e. the Wheels) for aftermarket installation on certain Harley Davidson motorcycles. At that time, Dayton was aware of only one incident involving an alleged Wheel collapse. On October 30, 2002, Dayton received a NHTSA letter of inquiry concerning alleged reported failures of the Wheels. In preparing its response to this inquiry, Dayton became aware of ten other incidents (for a total of eleven) occurring between February 2000 and September 2002, alleging spoke loosening and / or sudden Wheel collapse.

Since September 3, 2002, Dayton assessed the design of the AWW SuperSpoke wheel. After incorporating certain design improvements and subjecting components to a thorough quality control procedure to assure compliance with specifications, Dayton conducted successful durability testing on its own SuperSpokeII wheel. (Copies of test results are attached.) Thereafter, Dayton produced a small quantity of SuperSpokeII wheels. In January, Dayton shipped twenty-four of its rear wheels to various aftermarket distributors. Additionally, Dayton shipped eight 21x2.15 front wheels manufactured in Denton to its distributors. Dayton is not aware of any structural complaints on front wheels. The wheels were shipped in January (See Section II of this report for details.) After meeting with NHTSA personnel on February 5, 2003, Dayton determined that the Wheels shipped in the month of January had a potential for spoke-related failure not unlike that allegedly related to the aforementioned eleven incidents involving Wheels produced by AWW. Dayton immediately contacted the distributors to arrange for the return of the wheels that were shipped in January from the Dayton, Ohio location.

V. Identify the Remedy

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.

There is no replacement wheel available. Any expenses incurred by customers who received wheels in January, 2003, from the initial purchase, to the return the wheels, will be reimbursed by AWW LLC. (Dayton, Ohio)

Global Motorsport Parts was shipped 14 rear wheels (M0163540S-184) on January 29, 2003.

Lemans Corporation was shipped 10 rear wheels (M0163540S-184) on January 31, 2003.

Lemans Corporation was shipped 2 front wheels (M12121540S-200) on January 17, 2003.

Lemans Corporation was shipped 5 front wheels (M12121540S-200) on January 28, 2003.

Topeka Harley-Davidson was shipped 1 front wheel (M32121540S-200) as a warranty replacement on January 24, 2003.

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

No such remedy exists.

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.

There will be no further production of the SuperSpokeII wheel, nor further distribution of the SuperSpoke wheel or any similar design, until Dayton feels confident that it can produce a safe and durable wheel. As of February 5, 2003, the SuperSpoke/SuperSpokeII wheel has been discontinued.

VI. Identify the 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.

Distributors were contacted by phone on the evening of February 5, 2003. Customers were contacted the morning of February 6, 2003. There have been numerous contacts over the past week - all are summarized in the attached "Communications Log." Furthermore, the attachments contain copies of e-mail and written communication organized by distributor and in chronological order from top to bottom.

A summary of the recall status is attached and titled "Recall Status Report." This document contains all the current information through close of business 05/12/03.

VII. Furnish Recall Communications

9. 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 (including both original and follow-up) concerning this recall from the time your company determines the defect or noncompliance condition on, not just the initial notification.

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