



U.S. Department
of Transportation
**National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration**

1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

April 23, 2012

THOMAS A. VANDERPUTTEN
SERVICE AND WARRANTY MANAGER
THE ALUMINUM TRAILER COMPANY
306 SOUTH NAPPANEE STREET
P.O. BOX 396
NAPPANEE, IN 46550

NVS-215et
12V-171

SUBJECT: E/H BRAKE ACTUATOR

DEAR MR. VANDERPUTTEN:

This letter serves to acknowledge The Aluminum Trailer Company's (ATC) notification to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) of a safety recall campaign which will be conducted pursuant to Federal law for the vehicles listed below.

Makes/Models/Model Years:

ATC/QUEST CAR HAULER/2012

ATC/R SX GOOSENECK CAR HAULER/2012

NHTSA Campaign Number: 12V-171

Mfg's Report Date: April 18, 2012

Components: EQUIPMENT

Potential Number of Units Affected: 2

Summary:

ALUMINUM TRAILER COMPANY (ATC) IS RECALLING CERTAIN MODEL YEAR 2012 RSX GOOSENECK AND QUEST (QST) CAR HAULERS EQUIPPED WITH A DEXTER AXLE BRAND ELECTRIC/HYDRAULIC (E/H) BRAKE ACTUATOR PUMP. THIS PUMP MAY NOT HAVE BEEN PROPERLY HEAT TREATED. THIS CONDITION CAN CAUSE PREMATURE WEAR OF SOME CRITICAL COMPONENTS IN THIS PUMP WHICH CAN RENDER THE UNIT INOPERABLE.

Consequence:

THE E/H BRAKE ACTUATOR PROVIDES BRAKING POWER TO THE TRAILER BRAKES. FAILURE OF THE ACTUATOR CAN RESULT IN THE LOSS OF BRAKING EFFORT BY THE TRAILER, INCREASING THE RISK OF A CRASH.

Remedy:

ATC WILL NOTIFY OWNERS AND DEXTER AXLE DEALERS WILL REPLACE THE ELECTRIC/HYDRAULIC (E/H) BRAKE ACTUATOR PUMPS, FREE OF CHARGE. ATC HAS NOT PROVIDED A NOTIFICATION SCHEDULE. OWNERS MAY CONTACT ATC AT 1-877-441-2440.

Notes:

CUSTOMERS MAY CONTACT THE NATIONAL HIGHWAY TRAFFIC SAFETY ADMINISTRATION'S VEHICLE SAFETY HOTLINE AT 1-888-327-4236 (TTY: 1-800-424-9153); OR GO TO [HTTP://WWW.SAFERCAR.GOV](http://www.safercar.gov).

We have received your proposed owner notification letter and it is currently under review. You will be notified of any changes or concerns once our review is complete.

Please be reminded of the following requirements:

You are required to provide an estimated date including month, day, and year, when you will send notifications to owners, dealers, and distributors as soon as it becomes available. 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).

As stated in Part 573.7, submission of the first of six 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.

Your contact for this recall will be Edison Thompson who may be reached by phone at 1-202-366-9525, or by email at Edison.Thompson@dot.gov, or through the office email at RMD.ODI@dot.gov. We look forward to working with you toward a successful completion of this recall campaign.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jennifer Timian". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Jennifer Timian
Chief, Recall Management Division
Office of Defects Investigation
Enforcement