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13E-006
(4 pages)

February 1, 2013

VIA CERTIFIED AND ELECTRONIC MAIL

Nancy Lewis
Associate Administrator for Enforcement
Office of Safety Enforcement
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E.
Washington, DC 20590

Re: Part 573 Non-Compliance or Defect Information Report

Dear Ms. Lewis:

This letter is provided pursuant to 49 C.F.R. Part 573. I write as counsel to Hodyon, Inc. (“Hodyon”), the manufacturer of record, to advise of a safety-related defect potentially affecting certain Dynasys auxiliary power units (“APUs”).

Specifically, and as outlined below, a wire component of certain Dynasys APUs intended to connect to a heating and cooling unit had a crimp connection that could be under-rated for the actual current flowing and may develop a sharp bend or “kink” if external force is applied. The kink in the wire may lead to reduced current carrying capacity, leading potentially to overheating, heat degradation of wiring insulation and thermal events of items in direct contact with the affected harness.

573.6(c)(1): Manufacturer’s Name

Hodyon, Inc.
2620 Brushy Creek Loop
Cedar Park, TX 78613
512.279.6200

573.6(c)(2): Identification of Equipment Units Impacted

This issue potentially affects those Dynasys APUs manufactured and distributed by Hodyon from October 2009 through December 2012. Dynasys APUs are used on commercial trucks. Hodyon has identified the serial numbers and customers of potentially affected units.

573.6(c)(3) and (c)(4): Total Number of Forgings Potentially Containing a Defect

The number of potentially affected units sold is 3,274.

573.6(c)(5): Description of Possible Defect

The crimp connections that served as the terminals of the 110 VAC connector (“Connector”) to the heating, ventilation and air conditioning (“HVAC”) box were rated to a capacity very near or below the actual current that may have been flowing through the connection. At that connection point, and under a certain sequence of events, the wire component may develop a sharp bend or “kink” resulting in localized overheating. For the overheating to occur, first, an external object or force must be placed on or near the wire located at the crimp connection, and result in a kink. Second, the kink would need to cause stress in the wire leading to a reduction in the current carrying capacity of the wire. Third, this would have to cause the wire to overheat. Fourth, materials would have to be placed on or near the wire and the overheating would have to lead to the combustion of the external object.

573.6(c)(6): Chronology of Events

Weekend of January 5, 2013:

- An APU customer, FTSI Manufacturing/Transportation (“FTSI”), contacted Hodyon to report a fire that allegedly involved a Dynasys APU.
- Incident was escalated to Hodyon management.

Monday, January 7:

- Hodyon representatives from Technical Support and Product Development (“Response Team”) were dispatched to the location of the reported incident to inspect the situation.
- FTSI did not release the damaged components at that time.
- FTSI instructed its drivers to turn off their APUs until investigation of the issue was completed.

Tuesday, January 8:

- Hodyon was informed of a second incident involving another FTSI truck.

Wednesday, January 9:

- The Response Team was promptly dispatched to the location of the additional reported incident.
- FTSI released damaged components from both incidents to the Response Team.

Wednesday, January 9 and Thursday, January 10:

- Hodyon Technical Support and Product Development engaged in an analysis of the incidents to determine root cause.

Thursday, January 10, and Friday, January 11:

- Hodyon developed, reviewed and finalized a communications plan for customers and dealers, together with associated materials.

Friday, January 11:

- Inbound callers to Hodyon Technical Support, regardless of the reason for the call, were instructed to shut down their potentially affected APUs.

Saturday, January 12:

- Customer and dealer notification letters were sent to approximately 880 recipients (specifically, those customers and dealers for which Hodyon had email addresses). Please see notification letters, Exhibits 1 and 2.

Monday, January 14:

- Hodyon initiated a calling campaign to reach potentially affected customers.
- Initial notification letters were sent to potentially affected customers and dealers via certified mail, return receipt requested (regardless of whether customer/dealer had previously been notified via email or phone). Mailings were completed on Wednesday, January 16.

Week of January 14:

- Proposed solution and specifications for replacement parts were finalized.
- Vendors were identified to source parts.
- Implementation schedule was established.

Wednesday, January 16:

- Notification postings were made to the Hodyon website and Dynasys Facebook page.

Thursday, January 17:

- Hodyon initiated an outbound calling campaign by third-party provider, intended to provide additional notification regarding APU stop-use direction and disable procedure.

Saturday, January 19 and Sunday, January 20:

- Customer and dealer update communication is distributed via email. Please see Exhibits 3 and 4.

Tuesday, January 22:

- Customer and dealer update communication is distributed by registered mail, with delivery confirmation.

573.6(c)(8): Description of Proposed Remedy

The Connector to the HVAC box, along with the mating connector and pigtail wire harness inside the HVAC box, will be removed from the product configuration. Removal of these connectors eliminates the lower-rated crimp terminals. Additionally, the main 110 VAC wire harness coming from the power distribution center, will be extended through a strain relief fitting in the top cover of the HVAC box and will be terminated with fittings to attach directly to the HVAC printed circuit board (PCB) inside the HVAC box. The strain relief fitting will provide mechanical support to the wire harness and reduce stress on the connectors to the PCB. In addition, the strain relief fitting will be used in combination with a clamp to affix the wire harness to the outside of the HVAC box to describe a specific path and radius for the wire component in order to prevent kinking and susceptibility to external objects.

573.6(c)(10): Representative copies of all notices, bulletins and other communications that relate directly to the defect

Copies of notices sent to customers and dealers are attached as identified in the chronology above.

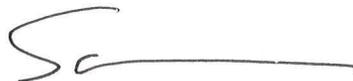
573.6(c)(11): Manufacturers Campaign Identification Number

Hodyon's identification number for this campaign is TSB-01242013.

* * *

Hodyon will provide additional information as it becomes available. Should NHTSA have any questions or comments regarding this report, please feel free to contact Scott Winkelman at (202) 624-2972 or Laura Walther at (202) 624-2613.

Sincerely,



Scott L. Winkelman
Laura J. Walther

Counsel to Hodyon, Inc.

cc: Jennifer N. Timian, Esq.
Exhibits (4)