



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

1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

March 14, 2013

Mr. Barry Mitchell
Director, Customer Service/Warranty
Great Dane Trailers
602 E. Lathrop Avenue
Savannah, GA 31402

NVS-215KS
13V-079

Subject: Cracking Welds may Lead to Axle Disengagement

Dear Mr. 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/DRY FREIGHT SEMI-TRAILER/2011

Mfr's Report Date: March 5, 2013

NHTSA Campaign Number: 13V-079

Components:
STRUCTURE

Potential Number of Units Affected: 698

Problem Description:

Great Dane Trailers is recalling certain model year 2011 Dry Freight Semi-Trailers. Welds at the bottom of the I-beam bogie frame may have been improperly applied. The cracking and failure of these welds may lead to hanger and axle disengagement.

Consequence:

A hanger and axle disengagement from the bogie frame could lead to a loss of control, increasing the risk of a crash.

Remedy:

The remedy for this recall campaign is still under development. The manufacturer has not yet provided a notification schedule. Owners may contact Great Dane 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 1-800-424-9153), or go to www.safercar.gov.

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. Please be reminded that it is expected owners will be notified of a safety defect in their vehicles within 60 days of a manufacturer's notification to NHTSA of a safety defect in those vehicles. 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.

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 Kelly Schuler who may be reached by phone at (202) 366-5227, or by email at kelly.schuler@dot.gov or through the office email at rmd.odi@dot.gov. We look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jennifer Timian". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

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