



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

1200 New Jersey Avenue SE  
Washington, DC 20590

October 25, 2013

Mr. John Dressen  
Dressen Custom Trailers, Inc.  
47321 Golfview Drive  
Dell Rapids, SD 57022

NVS-215KS  
13V-466

**Subject:** Interior Side Door Lock May Become Inoperable

Dear Mr. Dressen:

This letter serves to acknowledge Dressen Custom Trailers, Inc.'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:**

DRESSEN/DAKOTA CARGO/2006-2013  
DRESSEN/DAKOTA COMPETITOR/2006-2013

**Mfr's Report Date:** September 27, 2013

**NHTSA Campaign Number:** 13V-466

**Components:**

LATCHES/LOCKS/LINKAGES:DOORS:LATCH

**Potential Number of Units Affected:** 119

**Problem Description:**

Dressen Custom Trailers (Dressen) is recalling certain model year 2006-2013 Dakota Cargo trailers and Dakota Competitor trailers, DC and CP series, manufactured January 1, 2006, through April 25, 2013, equipped with Fastec-brand door locks. It may be possible to remove the key from the lock in a way that potentially jams the deadbolt.

**Consequence:**

If the deadbolt jams, the interior side of the door lock may also jam. A person inside the travel trailer at the time will then be locked in and be unable to exit the vehicle without using the emergency exit, increasing the risk of injury.

**Remedy:**

Dressen will notify owners, and Fastec will coordinate the inspection and replacement of the cylinders, as needed, free of charge. The manufacturer has not yet provided a notification schedule. Owners may contact Dressen at 1-605-428-4364 or Fastec at 1-800-837-2505.

**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](http://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. It is expected that owners will be sent a letter, on the manufacturer's letterhead, informing them of the 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. Also, 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).

We have been informed that Fastec will be handling the quarterly reporting for this campaign. Please be reminded that as the vehicle manufacturer Dressen is ultimately responsible for conducting an adequate safety recall campaign of its vehicles. Accordingly if this safety recall campaign is not successful, the agency may require Dressen to conduct a follow-up notification and conduct additional quarterly reporting.

On August 20, 2013, NHTSA announced new changes to the requirements governing safety recalls. Some of these requirements are already in effect. Please ensure your company will be in compliance with each requirement on, or before, its respective effective date. For a summary of the requirements and their effective dates please click on the "New!" link at <http://www.safercar.gov/Vehicle+Manufacturers>.

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](mailto:kelly.schuler@dot.gov) or through the office email at [rmd.odi@dot.gov](mailto:rmd.odi@dot.gov). We look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,



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