



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

1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

July 31, 2008

MR. JEFF STEIL
DIRECTOR OF PRODUCT SUPPORT
THE KNAPHEIDE MANUFACTURING COMPANY
PO BOX 7140
QUINCY, IL 62305-7140

NVS-215paw
08V-344

SUBJECT: BUMPER/HITCH

DEAR MR. STEIL:

This letter serves to acknowledge The Knapheide Manufacturing Company's notification to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) of a safety defect in the products described below for which a safety recall campaign shall be conducted pursuant to 49 U.S.C. § 30119.

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:
KNAPHEIDE/PRO SERIES/2006-2008

NHTSA Campaign Number: 08V-344

Mfg's Report Date: July 18, 2008

Components: TRAILER HITCHES

Potential Number of Units Affected: 108

Summary:
KNAPHEIDE IS RECALLING 108 MY 2006-2008 PRO SERIES TRUCK BEDS EQUIPPED WITH AN ICC BUMPER WHICH INCLUDED A PROVISION FOR A BALL HITCH. THERE MAY BE AN INSUFFICIENT WELD ATTACHING THE HITCH CHANNEL TO THE SUPPORTING STRUCTURE.

Consequence:
THIS COULD RESULT IN BENDING OF THE HITCH CHANNEL OR THE HITCH COULD BE PULLED OFF THE VEHICLE, INCREASING THE RISK OF A CRASH.

Remedy:

KNAPHEIDE WILL OFFER TWO REMEDIES TO ITS CUSTOMERS: (1) FOR THOSE CUSTOMERS WHO DO NOT USE THE HITCH, THE HITCH WILL BE REMOVED FROM THE TRUCK BED AND REPLACED WITH AN ICC BUMPER; OR (2) FOR THOSE CUSTOMERS WHO NEED A HITCH, A RECEIVER HITCH ASSEMBLY WILL BE ADDED TO THE EXISTING HITCH ASSEMBLY AND ALL SUSPECT WELD JOINTS WILL BE RE WELDED. THE RECALL IS EXPECTED TO BEGIN ON OR ABOUT AUGUST 5, 2008. OWNERS MAY CONTACT KNAPHEIDE AT 1-877-473-5763.

Notes:

CUSTOMERS MAY ALSO 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).

The information in your defect report appears to satisfy the requirements of 49 CFR 573.6.

We have reviewed your proposed owner notification letter and it does not quite meet the requirements of Part 577.

In the second paragraph, please change the word 'determined' to 'decided' per the regulations.

A risk needs to be added to the next to the last sentence of the third paragraph, i.e., "The defect can result ...hitch could be pulled off the vehicle, increasing the risk of a crash."

Please revise your owner letters to include the following updated NHTSA hotline information: "...the Administrator, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE., Washington, DC 20590; or call the toll-free Vehicle Safety Hotline at 1-888-327-4236 (TTY: 1-800-424-9153); or go to <http://www.safercar.gov>."

The sample envelope meets the requirements of Part 577.

Please provide the following additional information and be reminded of the following requirements:

Please provide us with the chassis make, model, and model years involved in this recall.

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. Enclosed is a quarterly report guide for your use in providing this information to the agency.

Your contacts for this recall will be Pat Wallace or Delia Lopez, who may be reached by phone at 202-366-5232 or 202-366-9525 or by email at Patricia.wallace@dot.gov, Delia.lopez@dot.gov, or through the office email at RMD.ODI@dot.gov. We look forward to working with you for successful completion of this recall campaign.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'G. Person', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

George H. Person
Chief, Recall Management Division
Office of Defects Investigation
Enforcement

Enclosure:
Quarterly Report Guide

Vehicle Safety Recall Quarterly Report Information¹

Required per 49 CFR Part 573.7

Report Date: _____ Calendar Quarter: _____

Safety Recall Quarterly Report from _____ through _____

Manufacturer: _____

Report Author: _____ Phone: (____) _____

Recall Subject: _____

1. NHTSA Safety Recall Campaign Number: _____

Also, for completeness, if your company has assigned a code number to this campaign, please provide your code: _____

2. (a) The date notification to purchasers began: _____

(b) The date notification of purchasers was completed: _____

3. The Total Number of Vehicles Involved: _____

The total number of vehicles involved in the subject campaign (including all items sold or distributed to purchasers, dealers, distributors, and similar entities beyond the immediate control of the manufacturer/importer).

4. (a) Total Number Inspected & Remedied: _____

Total number of vehicles which were inspected and/or otherwise repaired or remedied.

(b) Total Number Inspected & NOT REQUIRING REMEDY: _____

Total number of vehicles involved in the recall and inspected, but determined to NOT REQUIRE REMEDIAL or recall repair work.

5. Vehicles Determined to be Unreachable

Total Number Exported: _____

Total Number Stolen: _____

Total Number Scrapped: _____

Total Number Unable to Notify: _____

Total Number Otherwise Unreachable: _____

Describe Other: _____

¹Any Questions please contact Mrs. Kelly Schuler or Mr. George Person at (202) 366-5227 or by fax to (202) 366-7882. or e-mail to RMD.ODI@dot.gov.