

Navistar International  
Transportation Corp.

3083 Wayne Trace  
PO Box 10088  
Fort Wayne IN 46850-0088



**INTERNATIONAL**

March 15, 1999

Associate Administrator for Enforcement  
National Highway Traffic Safety Admin.  
400 Seventh Street, S.W.  
Washington D.C. 20590

99V-014.002 (01)

**Subject: Part 573.5 Vehicle Safety Defect Initial Information Report**

In accordance with the requirements of 49 CFR Part 573, Navistar International Transportation Corp. will voluntarily conduct a safety defect notification and remedy campaign to replace defective inner wheel bearings used on certain front steer axles of International vehicles.

The defective wheel bearing were manufactured by:

NTN Bearing Corporation of America  
1600 East Bishop Court  
Mt. Prospect, IL 60056-7604

Our contact at NTN Bearing Corporation is

Mr. Peter Eich  
Director of Engineering  
(847) 298-7500

- (1) NAVISTAR RECALL NUMBER ASSIGNED: 99503
- (2) VEHICLE MODELS INVOLVED: 2500, 2600, 4700, 4900, 5000, 8100, 9200, 9300 and 9400.
- (3) MODEL YEARS INVOLVED: 1998 and 1999
- (4) OTHER IDENTIFICATION NECESSARY TO DESCRIBE VEHICLES:  
Vehicles with a 16,000, 18,000, 20,000, and 22,000 pound rated capacity front steer axle.
- (5) VEHICLE MANUFACTURING DATES: 3/1/98 through 10/16/98

**NAVISTAR**

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- (6) **VEHICLE POPULATION INVOLVED:** 4,024 This quantity represents the total suspect population with the 16,000, 18,000, 20,000, and 22,000 pound rated capacity front steer axle.
- (7) **PORTION OF POPULATION ESTIMATED TO CONTAIN DEFECT:** 72%
- (8) **DESCRIPTION OF DEFECT:** The radius on the cone of the inner wheel bearing was incorrectly machined. The result is improper seating of the cone against the seal flange of the steering knuckle. Improper seating of the bearing increases the stress level on the steer axle knuckle spindle. The improper seating of the bearing may also cause the bearing to move resulting in excessive bearing endplay, which could result in premature bearing wear. There have been no known accidents because of this defect.
- (9) **RISK TO MOTOR VEHICLE SAFETY:** An improper fit of the inner wheel bearing cone increases the stress level on the front steer axle knuckle spindle which, over a long period of time, could cause a fatigue failure of the spindle. A failure of the front steer axle knuckle spindle could result in loss of steering control and cause a vehicular accident, resulting in personal injury, property damage, or both.
- (10) **CHRONOLOGY OF PRINCIPAL EVENTS WHICH LED TO DETERMINATION OF A SAFETY DEFECT:** Navistar was first made aware of the problem on 1/19/99 by an NTN representative. An investigation was initiated to determine the extent of the problem. On 2/16/99 a vehicle search identified suspect vehicles. On 2/24/99 and 3/2/99 front axle spindles were examined on two of the suspect vehicles to insure no stress damage had occurred to the spindle because of the defective bearings. A safety recall was declared on 3/11/99.
- (11) **PROGRAM TO BE TAKEN TO REMEDY DEFECT:** The inner wheel bearings will be inspected for proper seating on the axle spindle on all vehicles involved and all bearings that do not seat properly will be changed. The axle spindle and bearing cup will also be inspected for any damage and will be changed as required.
- (12) **THE SCHEDULE FOR THIS RECALL IS:**
  - Notify Navistar Field Service: 3/22/99
  - Notify Navistar Dealers: 3/29/99
  - Notify Customers: 4/5/99

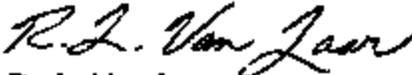
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- (13) **PROCEDURE TO INFORM SECRETARY OF FAILURE TO REMEDY WITHOUT CHARGE:** Paragraph to be added to owner notification letter as follows: If you take your vehicle to your International dealer on a mutually agreed upon service date and he does not remedy this condition without charge on that date or within five days, you can obtain assistance by following the procedure described in the Owner Assistance Guide section of your Owner's Manual. You may also wish to submit a complaint to the Administrator, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 400 Seventh Street, S.W., Washington, DC., 20590, or call the toll-free Auto Safety Hotline at 1-800-424-9393 (Washington, DC, area residents may call 338-0123) if your dealer or International fails or is unable to remedy this condition without charge or within a reasonable time.
- (14) **OWNER LETTER AND TECHNICAL LETTER:** To follow at the time they are released to the purchasers.

The undersigned should be contacted for any additional information regarding this recall on (219) 461-1890.

Very truly yours,

NAVISTAR INTERNATIONAL  
TRANSPORTATION CORP.



R. L. Van Laar  
Compliance Manager

Enclosure

Certified Mail # Z 276 409 819

cc: R. H. Dodge - TRC