

Navistar International
Transportation Corp.

3033 Wayne Trace
PO Box 10088
Fort Wayne IN 46850-0088

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DEFENDANT'S OFFICE



INTERNATIONAL

February 9, 1999

99V-033.001 (01)

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

Subject: Vehicle Safety Defect Initial Information Report

Pursuant to Part 573.5, this Vehicle Safety Defect Initial Information Report is submitted by Navistar International Transportation Corp.

This report relates to the tie rod assemblies on 6,000 and 8,000 pound capacity front steer axles manufactured by:

Dana Corporation
Spicer Heavy Axle & Brake Division
2424 West State Boulevard
Fort Wayne, In 46808

Our contact at Dana Corporation is:

Mr. Alan Spisak
Manager Division Quality Assurance
(219) 481-3104

- (1) NAVISTAR RECALL NUMBER ASSIGNED: 99501
- (2) VEHICLE MODELS INVOLVED: 1552, 1652, 3400, 3600, 3800, 4700 and 4900
- (3) MODEL YEARS INVOLVED: 1996 through 1998
- (4) OTHER IDENTIFICATION NECESSARY TO DESCRIBE VEHICLES:
Vehicles with a Spicer 6,000 or 8,000 pound rated capacity front steer axle.
- (5) VEHICLE MANUFACTURING DATES: 5/1/96 through 10/31/97
- (6) VEHICLE POPULATION INVOLVED: 40,091 This quantity represents the total population with the 6,000 and 8,000 pound capacity front steer axle.

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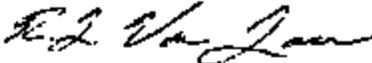
- (7) **PORTION OF POPULATION ESTIMATED TO CONTAIN DEFECT: 35%**
- (8) **DESCRIPTION OF DEFECT:** The tie rod end can pull outboard and separate from the tie rod tube due to improper thread engagement between the male tie rod end and the female tube. The thread major diameter on the tie rod ends may be under minimum print specifications and the tie rod tube pitch diameter threads may be over print specifications. These two factors, plus possible insufficient clamp load on the tie rod tube clamp nut, present a risk to motor vehicle safety. There have been no known accidents because of this defect.
- (9) **RISK TO MOTOR VEHICLE SAFETY:** A separation of the tie rod end 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 a possible problem on 2/3/98 when a Navistar field representative reported a failure. An investigation was initiated. Two more failures occurred in 3/98 and 5/98. A team composed of members from Dana and Navistar was established to determine root cause and remedy. The investigation intensified and numerous test programs were begun at Dana and Navistar. Two more failures occurred in 9/98 and 10/98. Since all failures were in the same fleet, a dry-park inspection program was implemented in this fleet during 11/98 to find defective tie rod assemblies. Further testing failed to isolate the problem to a specific fleet. A safety recall was declared on 2/5/99.
- (11) **PROGRAM TO BE TAKEN TO REMEDY DEFECT:** The complete tie rod assembly will be replaced on all vehicles involved.
- (12) **THE SCHEDULE FOR THIS RECALL IS:**
 - Notify Navistar Field Service: 3/29/99
 - Notify Navistar Dealers: 4/5/99
 - Notify Customers: 4/12/99

- (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 336-0123) if your dealer or International falls 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 276 409 814

cc: R. H. Dodge - TRC