

# VOLVO

Volvo Trucks North America, Inc.

99V-055.004 (01)

May 7, 1999

## CERTIFIED MAIL - RETURN RECEIPT

Associate Administrator for Enforcement  
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration  
400 Seventh Street, S.W.  
Washington, DC 20590

RECEIVED  
MAY 17 AM 8:53  
DEFECTS INVESTIGATION

The following information is submitted in accordance with the requirements of 49 CFR Part 573.5 as it applies to a defect relating to motor vehicle safety.

573.5(c)(1)  
Volvo Trucks North America, Inc.  
P.O. Box 26115  
Greensboro, NC 27402-6115

573.5(c)(2)  
Volvo AC, VN, WG, and WX model, heavy duty class 8 vehicles assembled by Volvo Trucks North America, Inc., between January 12, 1999 and January 18, 1999.

The vehicles affected by this notification were selected by using the part number of the suspect part, which was supplied to Volvo Trucks North America, by Meritor Automotive.

Meritor Automotive, Inc.  
2135 West Maple Road  
Troy, MI 48084-7186                      248-435-1725

573.5(c)(3)  
Two hundred and eighty-five (285) vehicles potentially contain the suspect defect.

573.5(c)(4)  
Percentage of vehicles expected to contain the suspect defect is less than 1%.

573.5(c)(5)  
The brake automatic slack adjuster pull pawl may not have been tightened to the specified torque. An automatic slack adjuster pull pawl that is not tightened to the specified torque, may gradually loose adjustment in service due to normal brake wear.

# VOLVO

Page Two  
NHTSA  
May 7, 1999

99V-055.004 (02)

573.5(c)(6)

3-30-99

Volvo Trucks North America, Inc. received notification from Meritor Automotive, Inc. that they were recalling certain brake slack adjusters because the adjustment pull pawl was not tightened to specified torque. See Exhibit "A" attached.

4-17-99

Volvo model trucks that could contain one or more of the suspect Meritor automatic slack adjusters identified.

5-4-99

Volvo Trucks North America, Inc. decided that some of its vehicles were built with the suspect Meritor automatic slack adjusters and will conduct the recall on behalf of Meritor Automotive.

573.5(c)(7)

Not applicable

573.5(c)(8)

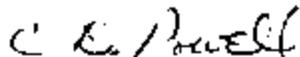
Volvo Trucks North America, Inc. will initiate a voluntary owner notification, and recall of all vehicles built with the suspect automatic slack adjusters.

The recall will consist of checking and, if necessary tightening the automatic slack adjuster pull pawl to the specified torque identified by Meritor Automotive.

The number, which has been assigned to this recall by Volvo Trucks North America, Inc., is RVXX9903.

The recall is tentatively scheduled to commence within 25 working days of this notification.

Very Truly Yours



Charles D. Powell  
Recall Administrator

RECEIVED  
29 MAY 17 AM 8:53  
OFFICE  
DEFECTS INVESTIGATION

**EXHIBIT A**   
**MERITOR**

March 24, 1999

LEGAL DEPT.

MAR 24 1999

Volvo Trucks North America, Inc.  
7900 National Service Road  
Greensboro, NC

99V-055.004 (U3)

Att'n: Mr. Chuck Powell

**CAMPAIGN NOTICE: Meritor Automatic Slack Adjusters Shipped Between January 8 and January 14, 1999**

Dear Customer,

This notice is sent to you in accordance with the requirements of the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act.

Meritor Automotive has determined that a defect exists in certain Automatic Slack Adjusters (ASAs) which shipped to you between January 8, 1999 and January 14, 1999. Specifically, Meritor believes that the adjustment guide pawl installed in suspect ASAs may not have been tightened to the specified torque value.

Meritor recommends that vehicle manufacturers notify the affected owners and request that they have the guide pawl ASAs installed in their vehicles tightened to the specified 15-20 lbs-ft torque.

An automatic slack adjuster guide pawl that is not torqued to the specified 15 - 20 lbs-ft may gradually lose adjustment in service due to the normal brake wear. Although vehicle operators are expected to routinely inspect brakes to assure proper adjustment, it is possible that this inspection procedure may be overlooked and the affected brake left unadjusted for a period of time. If undetected, the brake will lose further adjustment and eventually become ineffective. Under certain conditions, an ineffective brake may increase the vehicle stopping distance.

Recommended service instructions are enclosed. Meritor's investigation has not yet determined the exact number of Volvo vehicles that are affected. Mr. David Pritchard at Meritor's Tilbury, Ontario facility. (519-682-1740, ext 306) will be providing this information to you directly in the near future.

March 24, 1999

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99V-055004 (JK)

Meritor believes that suspect ASAs were shipped only between January 8 - 14, 1999.

Accordingly, Meritor estimates that only vehicles which were assembled between January 11 - 14, 1999 are likely to be affected.

No parts are required for this recommended servicing.

Meritor will provide warranty credit to reimburse for the reasonable labor (estimated at .3 hours for each vehicles) to conduct the requested service. A copy of the recommended service procedure is attached. Reimbursement for labor expense in response to this Notice should be forwarded to Meritor and reference Meritor Account CXDD.

Contact Mr. Gary Ganaway at 248-435-3907 if you have any additional questions regarding and technical or administrative issues.

If you conclude that Meritor has not enabled you to remedy this condition in a reasonable time, you may submit a complaint to the:

Administrator  
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration  
400 Seventh Street, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20590

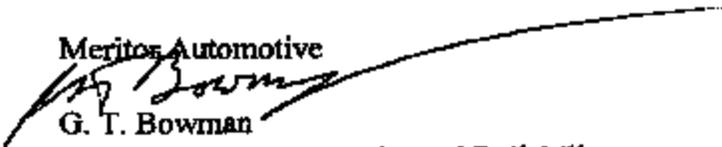
- or -

Call the toll free Auto Safety Hotline: 1-800-424-9393  
(Washington D.C. Residents call 202-366-0123)

We regret any inconvenience that this situation may cause but assure you that Meritor's concern is for customer safety and your continued satisfaction with our products.

Sincerely,

Meritor Automotive

  
G. T. Bowman

Manager, Product Integrity and Reliability

This a a draft of the service instructions. Meritor is printing "clean" copies.



**MERITOR.**

99V- 055.004 (J5)

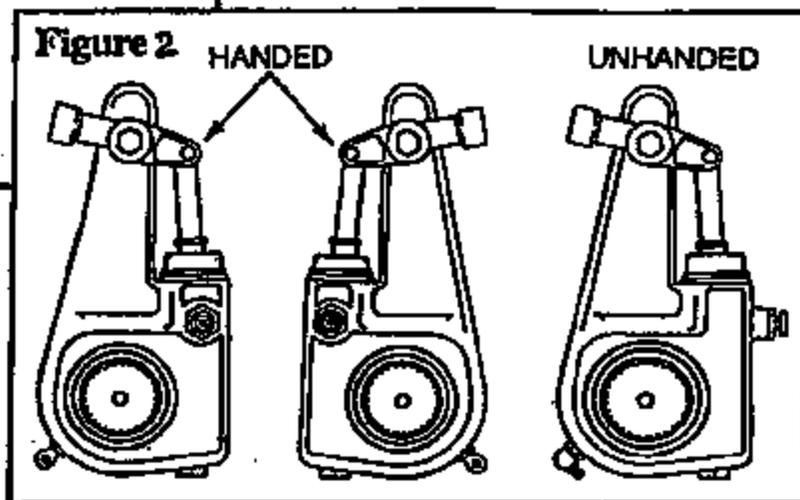
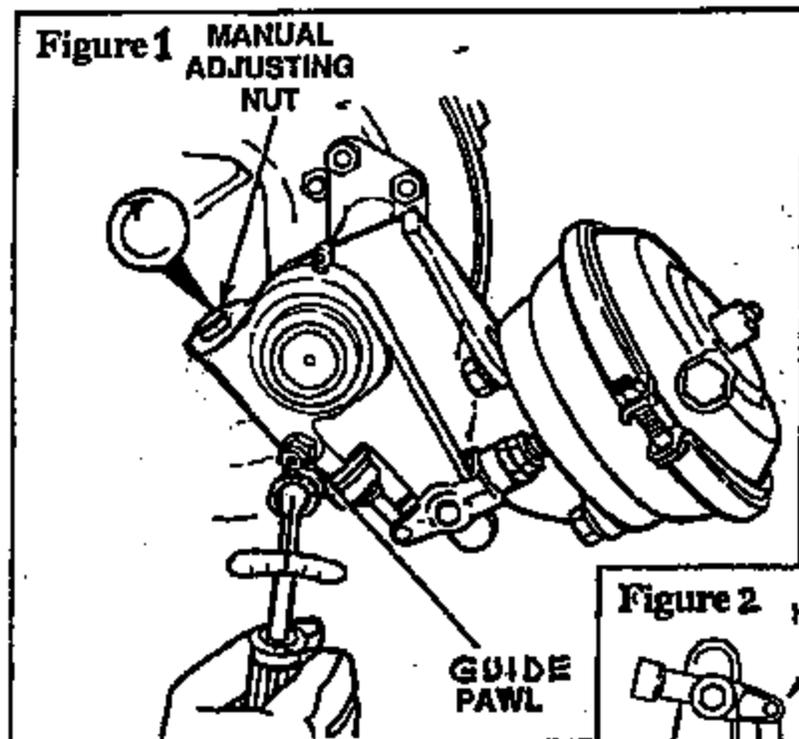
## ASA (Automatic Slack Adjuster)

### Guide Pawl Torque Verification

Using a dial type or click type torque wrench, fitted with a  $\frac{3}{4}$ " socket, tighten the Guide Pawl Cap to 15 -20 lb-ft as shown in Fig. 1

If access is limited, a Crow's Foot wrench or adapter may be used

The Guide Pawl Cap may be found in one of the three locations shown in Fig. 2, depending on the style of slack adjuster supplied



File: H:\NRC0237\ASA001.DOC

Meritor Automotive, Inc.  
2135 West Maple Road  
Troy, MI 48064-7186



March 16, 1999

99V-055.004 (88)

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration  
400 Seventh Street S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20590  
Attention: Associate Administrator of Enforcement

Re: Defect Information Report, in accordance with 49 CFR 573.5

Meritor Automatic Slack Adjusters Shipped Between January 8 – January 14, 1999  
Meritor File: CXDB

Gentlemen:

This Defect Information Report is submitted by the Meritor Heavy Vehicle Systems in accordance with the requirements of The National Motor Vehicle Safety Act of 1966 as set forth in 49 CFR 573.5. This information is presented to correspond to the sub paragraphs of section 573.5 ( c ).

(1) This report is submitted by

Meritor Heavy Vehicle Systems, LLC  
2135 West Maple Road  
Troy, Michigan 48064

(2) This report pertains to Meritor Automatic Slack Adjusters Shipped between January 8 - 14, 1999.

Meritor has determined that the affected ASAs were shipped no earlier than January 8 since this date corresponds to the earliest possible date at which shipments of the affected brake assemblies or "loose" Automatic Slack Adjusters could have been made.

Meritor has determined that the affected ASAs were shipped no later than January 14, 1999 since this date corresponds to production after the assembly problem was detected and corrective actions were implemented.

March 16, 1999

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99V-055.004 (07)

(2) As requested, a sample of the cut-away sample of the ASA product has been sent to NHTSA.

A list of the affected purchasers is attached.

(3) The total number of suspect vehicles is approximately 2500.

(4) Based on inspection data, the percentage of actually defective ASA within the suspect axle population is less than 1 %.

(5) Meritor's investigation has determined that a small quantity of ASA guide pawls may not have been tightened to the specified torque. |

(6) In January, 1999 Meritor Engineering detected and corrected the low torque condition. During this period, Meritor conducted discussions with NHTSA to assure that Customer Notifications were appropriate with NHTSA guidelines.

There have been no warranty, field or service reports pertaining to this issue.

(7) This issue does not involve non-compliance with a motor vehicle standard.

(8) In order to correct this defect, Meritor intends to notify affected purchasers and request them to notify current owners of affected vehicles to have the suspect ASAs guide pawl checked and, if necessary, tightened to the specified torque. A copy of a representative Purchaser Notification Letter is enclosed.

(9) Following is an approximate schedule for the program:

March 16, 1999

Meritor Notification to Purchasers

We trust that the information provided in this document is fully responsive to the requirements of 49 CFR 573.5. All additions or modifications to any of the information given will be reported promptly to NHTSA. Any questions with respect to the information provided should be directed to the undersigned.

Respectfully Submitted,

MERITOR AUTOMOTIVE

  
G. T. Bowman

Manager, Product Integrity and Reliability

**Summary of Vehicle Manufacturers Who Purchased Automatic  
Slack Adjusters that Require Guide Pawl Torque Check as  
outlined in  
Meritor's March, 1999 Notification**

<u>Purchaser</u>	<u>Estimated Number of Vehicles *</u>
Freightliner Corporation 4747 North Channel Road Portland, OR	675
Kenworth Truck Company 10630 N. E. 38 <sup>th</sup> Place Kirkland, WA	80
Navistar International Transportation Company 3033 Wayne Trace Ft. Wayne, IN	1730 *
	* US & Canada
Peterbilt Motors Woodbrook Street Denton, TX	47
Volvo Trucks North America, Inc. 7900 National Service Road Greensboro, SC	Unknown