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OFFICE
DEFECTS INVESTIGATION

November 29, 1999

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

99V-082.001 (U1)

Attention: Associate Administrator of Enforcement

Re: Defect Information Report

Meritor 15" Diameter Air Actuated Q-Plus Cam Brake equipped with Federal-Mogul Friction Products' 3030-197 brake lining actuated with Type 20 air chambers and 5.5" slack adjusters manufactured between January 1, 1999 through September 30, 1999

NHTSA File: 99E-037 Meritor File: CXDE

Dear Sir(s):

This Defect Information Report is submitted by:

Western Star Trucks Inc.
2076 Enterprise Way,
Kelowna, British Columbia,
Canada, V1Y 6H8

in accordance with the requirements of the National Motor Vehicle Safety Act of 1996 as set forth in 49 CFR Section 573.5 This information is presented to correspond to the sub-paragraphs of Section 573.5 (c).

2. This report pertains specifically to 15" diameter Meritor Q-Plus cam actuated brakes equipped with Federal Mogul Friction Products' 3030-197 brake lining installed on vehicles manufactured between January 1, 1999 and September 30, 1999. Western Star has based the scope of the affected linings solely on the Campaign Notice provided to Western Star on November 24, 1999
3. There are fifty (50) Western Star trucks that were assembled with the non-compliant brake linings. Twenty-six (26) of these trucks are currently operating in the United States.
4. The number of brake linings suspected to be non-compliant is 100%
5. On November 24, 1999 Western Star Trucks was notified that Meritor had concluded that a non-compliance was evident with the allowable pressure required for the brake recovery portion of the deceleration test, outlined in Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard (FMVSS) 121.



6. Western Star was advised in August of 1999 that Meritor was involved with extensive testing to try and determine whether a non-compliance issue was evident on the 15" Q-Plus product with the Federal-Mogul Friction Products 3030-197 lining. This ensuing investigation has concluded with Meritor issuing the November 24, 1999 Campaign Notice.
7. This is an issue of non-compliance to Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard (FMVSS) 121.
8. Western Star Trucks intends to notify customers who have purchased trucks with the specified non-compliant linings by December 6, 1999.
9. A representative copy of all notices, bulletins, and other communications that relate directly to the non-compliance which is sent to Western Star will be submitted to NHTSA not later than five (5) days after they are initially received.

We trust that the above information along with the attached document from Meritor is fully responsive to the requirements of Section 573.5 of the National Motor Vehicle Safety Act of 1996 as it applies to a potential safety related defect. If there are any additions or modifications to the information given it will be reported immediately to NHTSA.

If there are any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned.

Regards,
WESTERN STAR TRUCKS INC.



Stephen A. Scott
Compliance Engineer

Meritor Automotive, Inc.
2135 West Maple Road
Troy, MI 48064-7136

99V-082.001 (13)



MERITOR

November, 1999

Mr. Don Moore
Manager, Compliance Engineering
Western Star Trucks
2076 Enterprise Way
Kelowna, British Columbia
CANADA V1Y

Subject: CAMPAIGN NOTICE:

**Meritor 15" Diameter (widths: 4" & 5") Air Actuated Q-Plus Cam Brake
(Predominantly Installed in heavy truck front axle applications) Equipped with
Federal-Mogul Friction Products' 3030-197 Brake Lining actuated with Type 20
air chambers x 5.5" slack adjusters manufactured between January 1, 1999
through September 30, 1999**

Meritor File: CXDE

NHTSA File: 99E-037

Dear Customer,

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

General Information

Meritor Automotive has determined that certain 15" diameter Q-Plus cam actuated brakes equipped with Federal-Mogul Friction Products' 3030-197 brake lining do not consistently satisfy the dynamometer test performance requirements S5.4.3 (Brake Recovery) of FMVSS-121.

Specifically, the 15" Q-Plus brake equipped with Federal Mogul Friction Products' 3030-197 lining can demonstrate the required deceleration performance but, for the application and component combinations listed below, have exceeded the maximum allowable 85 psi pressure required for the brake recovery phase of the test.

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To correct this condition, Meritor and Federal-Mogul Friction Products recommend that the brake linings that are currently-installed in vehicles that meet the application criteria listed below be removed and replaced with an substitute lining that is able to comply with the stated test requirement.

A list of candidate brake assemblies is attached. Only those brake assemblies which have been installed in vehicles which meet ALL of the following vehicle configuration requirements require replacement:

- (1) Trucks Only. Tractor applications are excluded from the test requirements per FMVSS-121, S 5.4.3 (a)
- (2) Gross Axle Weight Rating (GAWR) that exceed 12,000 lbs. Vehicles with GAWR ratings equal to 12,000 lbs. are not affected by this Notice.
- (3) Meritor 15" x 4", 15" x 5" Q - Plus cam brakes manufactured between January 1, 1999 and September 30, 1999
- (4) Equipped with Federal Mogul Friction Products' 3030-197 brake lining (Meritor R-201)
- (5) Equipped with wheels of 20 inch diameter and larger. Vehicles equipped with 19.5 inch wheels are not affected by this Notice.
- (6) Equipped with Type 20 Air Chambers (or smaller)
- (7) Equipped with 5-1/2" length slack adjuster (or shorter)

Replacement Shoe & Lining Assemblies

Meritor anticipates that individual applications and customer preferences may influence which of several suitable brake lining alternatives will be most appropriate for individual application specifications. Therefore, Meritor recommends that each OEM review the attached list in order to determine which brake assemblies may meet the criteria for replacement. Then contact Meritor Brake Engineering (248-435-3907) to review this information in order to verify the analysis and to determine which replacement lining(s) (shoe and lining assemblies) will be the most appropriate replacement for the particular vehicle configuration(s) identified.

Meritor has an adequate inventory of replacement brake linings (shoe and lining assemblies) to support this Program now.

Claims for Credit

Meritor will reimburse your company for reasonable material and labor charges required to remove and replace the brake shoe & lining assemblies on the affected axle only in vehicles that meet the above-listed criteria.

Repair labor is not expected to exceed one (1) hour per wheel end

Documented warranty claims for installation labor expenses should refer to Meritor Campaign CXDE and should be sent to:

Mr. Jim Nemeth
Meritor Automotive
2135 West Maple Road
Troy, MI 48084

Properly documented claims for reimbursement for parts and labor should contain the following information:

- Reference to Meritor Campaign CXDE
- Serial Number of Front Axle
- 17 digit Vehicle Identification Number (VIN)
- Fleet unit number of vehicle
- Vehicle Owner's name and address
- Vehicle In-Service Date
- Vehicle Repair Date
- Vehicle Mileage at time of repair
- Name and address of Repair Facility and copy of the work order
- Total hours required to perform the repair, up to the maximum specified above.
- Repair facility's officially published labor rate.

Returned Parts

Removed parts should be mutilated to prevent inadvertent re-use and held by the servicing dealer until reviewed by a Meritor representative. Dealers are authorized to discard the removed material only after receiving warranty credit for the recommended repairs.

Questions or Requests for Service Information

Meritor Maintenance Manual No. 4 "Cam Master Brakes" contains information that is helpful for replacing the brake shoe and lining assemblies.

Questions or requests for service information may be directed to the Mr. Gary Ganaway (248-435-3907). Requests for information regarding suspension applications should be directed to Mr. Jim Eckelberry (248-435-3492).

If you conclude that Meritor or Federal-Mogul Friction Products 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

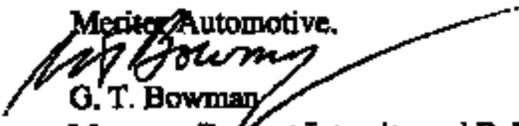
- or -

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 and Federal Mogul Friction Products' concern is for your continued satisfaction with our products.

Sincerely,

Meritor Automotive.



G. T. Bowman

Manager, Product Integrity and Reliability

copy: NHTSA

Estimated Number of Meritor 15" Diameter (widths: 4" & 5") Air Actuated Q-Plus Cam Brake Equipped with Federal Mogul Friction Products' 3030-197 Brake Lining (Meritor R201) actuated with Type 20 air chambers x 5.5" slack adjusters manufactured between January 1, 1999 through September 30, 1999.

<u>Purchaser</u>	<u>Meritor Estimate of Number of affected Brake Assemblies</u>
Western Star Trucks 2076 Enterprise Way Kelowna, British Columbia, CANADA	Fewer Than 100 (*)

(*) These quantities are provided as Meritor's estimates. Vehicle manufacturers will need to review their records to determine the exact number of affected vehicles after evaluating which of their vehicle applications meet the application parameters outlined in the Campaign Notification Letter and identify the specific vehicle configurations affected.