

# VOLVO

Volvo Trucks North America, Inc.

May 29, 2003

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NVS-215

2003 MAY 30 A 11: 56

EXPRESS MAIL

OFFICE OF  
DEFECTS INVESTIGATION

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

03V-204 ① of ④

Subject: Jost JSK 37U Series Fifth Wheels

In accordance with the requirements of 49 CFR Part 573, Volvo Trucks North America, Inc. submits the following information.

Volvo Trucks North America on April 24, 2003 received notice from Jost International Corp. concerning a safety defect affecting their JSK 37 "U" series fifth wheel assemblies that were manufactured between September 3, 1999, and April 4, 2003.

Jost stated the defect is a fatigue crack that can initiate in the weld joining the mounting flange to the bracket pin (top-plate pivot pin). The bracket pin (top-plate pivot pin) is the component that joins the fifth wheel top plate to the fifth wheel mounting structure (fifth wheel leg). See exhibit "A".

Based on the information provided by Jost International Corp. a total of one thousand, two hundred, and seventy-five (1,275) Volvo VNL, VNM, and VHD model vehicles have been identified as potentially having one of the suspect fifth wheels.

According to letter received from Jost on May 21, 2003 Jost will be conducting all aspects of the recall per the requirements of 49 CFR Parts 573, and Parts 577, which includes owner notifications. See exhibit "B".

Based on the letter of May 21, 2003 Volvo Trucks North America will provide to Jost vehicle and owner information necessary for Jost to notify the affected Volvo vehicle owners of the subject recall. See exhibit "C".

Best Regards



Charles D. Powell  
Recall Administrator

OFFICE OF DEFECTS  
INVESTIGATION

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# EXHIBIT A

April 24, 2003

Volvo Trucks North America  
Warren E. Spradlin  
P.O. Box 26240  
Greensboro, NC 27402

Dear Warren,

On April 15, 2003 Jost International initiated a voluntary recall, which could affect motor vehicle safety. The recall involves the bracket pins for the JSK 37U series fifth wheels. The bracket pins connect the fifth wheel topplate to its mounting structure (see Figure 1 below).

Under certain loading conditions a fatigue crack can initiate in the weld joining the bracket pin to its mounting flange. Weld failure could lead to the loss of the pin, and the potential separation of the fifth wheel topplate from its mounting structure.

To date, there have been no accidents that have resulted in any property damage or personal injury.

Our records indicate that you have purchased one or more of the fifth wheels that may contain this defect. We have enclosed all of the information that we know regarding each of the fifth wheels that you have purchased. We are asking that you search your records and complete the OEM portion of the attached forms.

We will then contact your customer, requesting the same information, until we locate the end user. The end user will then be notified with his options to have the pins replaced.

Your responses can be forwarded to us electronically by E-Mail to [recall@jostinternational.com](mailto:recall@jostinternational.com) or by fax to (616) 846-0310 also by mail to Jost International P.O. Box 327 Grand Haven, MI 49417.

If you have any questions, or feel that this notification was sent to you in error, feel free to contact us at [recall@jostinternational.com](mailto:recall@jostinternational.com) or (800) 253-5105.

Very Truly Yours:

Gregory A. Laarman  
Vice president Engineering

(Enclosures)

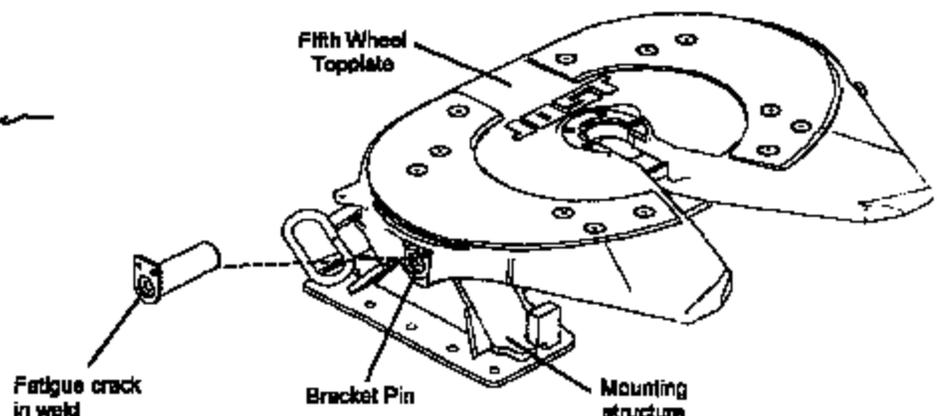


FIGURE 1

**JOST** -International Corp.**EXHIBIT B**

May 21, 2003

Mr. Chuck Powell  
Volvo Trucks North America  
P.O. Box 26115  
Greensboro, North Carolina 27402-6115

Dear Chuck:

This letter is to confirm our discussions regarding the JOST International Bracket pin (SK 79011-03) recall for our JSK 37 "U" series fifth wheels. As we have discussed, we feel that we have the obligation to conduct this recall.

We have made notification to NHTSA and forwarded a Defect and Non-Compliance Report. NHTSA has assigned this recall number 03E-029. We plan to fulfill the quarterly reporting requirements as outlined in 49 CFR Part 573.

We have also planned to make the owner notification, as outlined in 49 CFR Part 577. NHTSA has already reviewed and approved our owner notification documents.

If you agree that we are now responsible to fulfill the recall requirements, please forward the results of your database search for the owners of record, (of the potentially affected units), so that we can begin the notification process. We understand that this information is confidential, and will only use it for the purposes of this recall.

Thank you for your assistance, if I can be of further service feel free to contact me.

Very Truly Yours;



Gregory A. Laarman  
Vice President Engineering

**VOLVO**

03V-204 ④ of ④

Volvo Trucks North America, Inc.

**EXHIBIT C**

May 29, 2003

Express - Over Night

Mr. Gregory Laarman  
Jost International Corp.  
1770 Hayes Road  
Grand Haven, MI 49417

Subject: Jost Fifth Wheel Recall

Dear Mr. Laarman;

In response to Jost International's recall notice of April 24, 2003, and subsequent letter of May 21, 2003, Volvo Trucks North America, Inc. submits the vehicle and owner information required to notify the affected vehicle owners of the subject recall. The enclosed information is to be used to notify the affected Volvo truck owners of the subject recall and for no other purposes.

It is Volvo Trucks North America's understanding that Jost International Corp. will be conducting all aspects of the subject recall per the requirements of Federal Code of Regulations (CFR) Title 49 - Transportation Part 573 Notification, and Part 577 Defect and Non-Compliance Reports for the affected Volvo model vehicles.

Based on the information provided by Jost International, Volvo Trucks warranty records identified 1,275 vehicles, which were built with the suspect JSK 37U series fifth wheels.

The enclosed computer disc identifies each vehicle and the name and address of the affected vehicle owner.

Should you have any questions, please contact me at (336) 393-2233.

Very Truly Yours,



Charles D. Powell  
Recall Administrator