



**Alcoa Wheel &  
Forged Products**

1600 Harvard Avenue  
Cleveland, OH 44105-3092 USA  
Tel: 1 216 841 8600

RECEIVED

July 17, 2003

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Kelly Schuler  
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration  
400 Seventh St., S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20590

**Ref: Customer Letter & Point-of-Sale Flyer for Recall No. 03E-028**

Dear Ms. Schuler,

Please find the following items attached:

1. Customer Letter, dated July 14, 2003
2. Point-of-Sale Flyer

The Customer letter has been verbally and electronically reviewed by NHTSA and myself over the last week. Here is the final version as you and I have modified it.

I need to obtain NHTSA's official approval for the Customer letter. The Point-of-Sale Flyer is intended to be placed at "Point-of-Sale" locations as an aid to achieve additional wheels to be replaced under this Recall. Please mail or e-mail your agency's approval or suggested revisions.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact me at (216) 641-6315.

Sincerely,

Richard L. Corliss  
Manager, Technology & Quality  
Alcoa Wheel and Forged Products  
1600 Harvard Avenue  
Cleveland, OH 44105

Phone: 216-641-6315  
E-mail: [Richard.Corliss@alcoa.com](mailto:Richard.Corliss@alcoa.com)



## Alcoa Wheel & Forged Products

1600 Harvard Avenue  
Cleveland, OH 44106-3092 USA  
Tel: 1 216 841 9800

July 14, 2003

### **ALCOA VOLUNTARILY RECALLS AFTERMARKET LIGHT TRUCK WHEEL**

**Safety Recall: 16 x 6 Aluminum Forged Light Truck Wheels  
Alcoa Dually Wheels, LTS and Classic  
Produced between June 1996 and June 1999**

**NHTSA Recall # 03E-028 - This notice is sent to you in accordance with the requirements of the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act.**

Dear Customer,

Alcoa Wheel and Forged Products has decided that a defect relating to motor vehicle safety exists in certain 16 x 6 forged aluminum light truck wheels, specifically, Classic and LTS models which are typically used on full-ton series pick-ups in either a front or dualled wheel axle applications. These wheels were designed to fit the full-ton vehicles of the following manufactures: Ford F-series, General Motors GMC, Chevrolet, Dodge Ram and Ford Econoline van. These wheels are aftermarket products, and do not include any shipments to the original equipment manufacturers. Some of the wheels produced from June 1996 to June 1999 for the aftermarket consumer, are developing fatigue cracks initiating at multiple locations in the outboard bead seat area depending on the severity of how the vehicle is used by the owner. First indication of a crack would be a gradual air loss in the tire over time. The crack may propagate around the circumference of the wheel along the bead seat of the tire, causing the tire and face of the wheel to separate from the vehicle, resulting in loss of vehicle control and a possible vehicle crash. The following part numbers are affected:

<u>Classic Part Number</u>	<u>LTS Part Number</u>
160231, 160232	160251, 160252
160241, 160242	160261, 160262
160281, 160282	160271, 160272
160291, 160292	
160301, 160302	

**Our records indicate that you have purchased these Alcoa part numbers that were manufactured during the period affected.**

**Wheels that are gradually losing air pressure should be taken out of service and replaced immediately.**

Alcoa will replace the wheels with identical style wheels, offering a quick exchange at no cost to consumers. This exchange is at no charge to you, including reasonable costs of demounting the tire and wheel assembly from the vehicle, changing the tire to a replacement wheel, balancing and remounting the assembly. Customers and dealers can determine whether a wheel is included in this recall by checking the part number in the wheel roll stamp, positioned on the inside of the rim near the hand hole and opposite the valve location. (See Attachment #1.)

We need you to take the following actions immediately:

- If you have Alcoa 16 X 6 wheels on your vehicle, please call the Alcoa Wheel Service Center at 888-279-3055, Monday through Friday, from 8:00AM and 4:30 PM, to validate if you have affected wheels and what to do to get them replaced.
- If you are not sure about the Alcoa 16 X 6 wheels on your vehicle, go to a local tire dealer and ask them to help you determine if your wheels are affected by this recall. Please provide the dealer with the enclosed illustration showing where the part number and date code are stamped on Alcoa wheels.
- Have the tire center call the Alcoa Campaign Center (1-888-279-3055) for additional instructions and an Authorization Number before initiating any work on your vehicle. The Authorization Number will be necessary to allow payment for services, to arrange for billing, and to arrange the return of wheels.
- If the Alcoa wheels are no longer in your possession, please contact the Alcoa Campaign Center (1-888-279-3055), so that transfer of ownership can be documented and efforts can be made to contact the new owner.

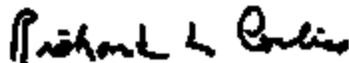
For more information on the recall, replacement procedures and replacement wheels, call 888-279-3055, Monday through Friday, from 8:00AM and 4:30 PM, or write the Alcoa Wheel Service Center at P.O. Box 557, Mauro Avenue, Knox, PA 16232.

You may be entitled to reimbursement costs for pre-notification replacement of the affected Alcoa wheels, providing the following conditions are met:

- The 5-year Alcoa warranty had expired when the replacement wheels were purchased.
- The consumer had contacted Alcoa for replacement and was denied warranty coverage by an authorized representative of Alcoa.
- The replacement took place after June 1996.
- You have a receipt identifying the replacement wheels purchased and the total amount paid.

We apologize to you, our valued customer, for any inconvenience this may cause. Our primary concern is for your safety, and we assure you that we are trying to efficiently manage this recall so as to minimize the activity required by you. We would like to thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

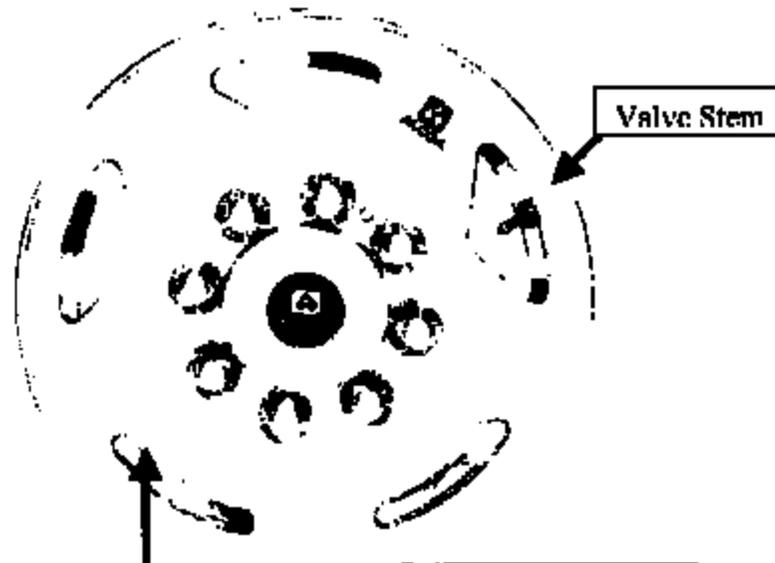


Richard L. Corliss  
Manager, Technology & Quality  
Alcoa Wheel and Forged Products

**If you believe we have failed or are unable to affect the remedy without charge as described in this notification, you may call the Auto Safety Hot Line at 888-327-4236 toll free, or submit a complaint to: Administrator, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 400 Seventh Street, SW, Washington, D.C. 20590.**

**ATTACHMENT #1**

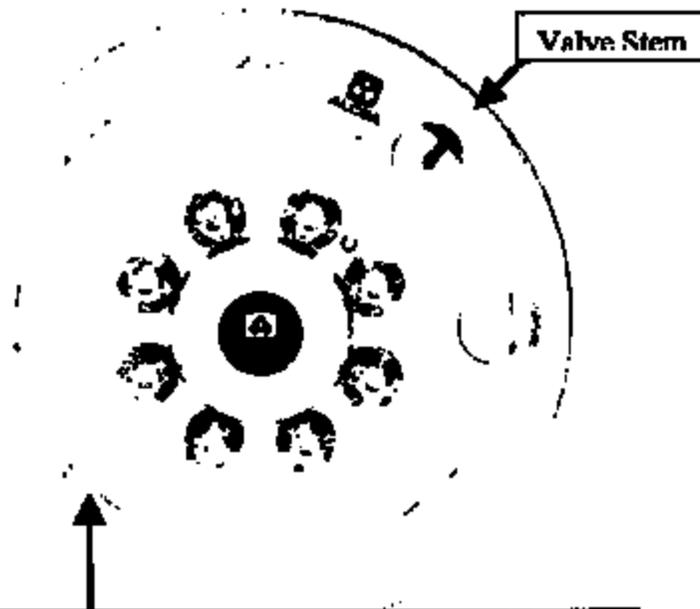
**Alcoa LTS style**



Valve Stem

Roll Stamp on the inside of the wheel. The date code and part number follows "Made in USA."

**Alcoa Classic style**

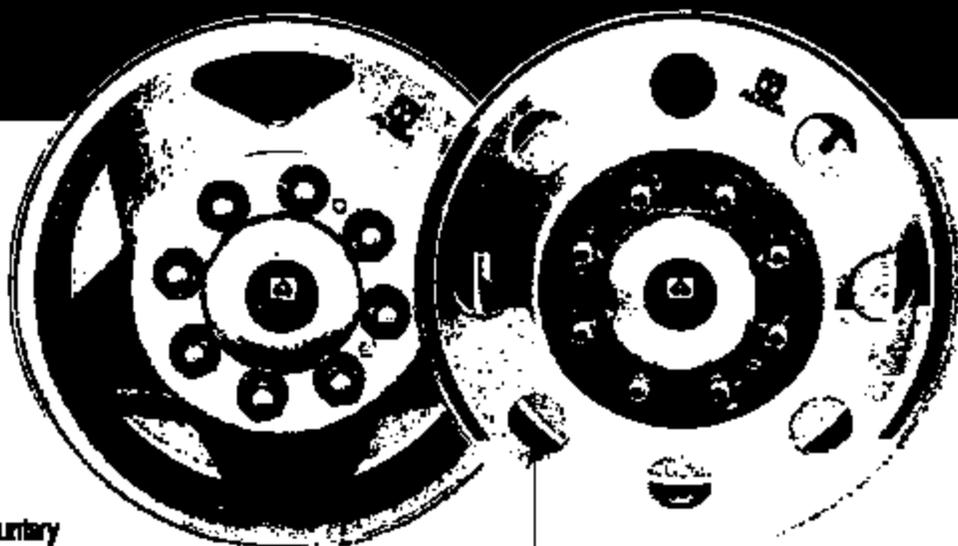


Valve Stem

Roll Stamp on the inside of the wheel, opposite the valve stem. The date code and part number follows "Made in USA."

# ALCOA VOLUNTARY RECALL

## AFTERMARKET LIGHT TRUCK WHEELS, DUALY WHEELS.



This voluntary recall affects aftermarket

16 x 6, LTS and Classic Aluminum Forged Light Truck Wheels and Dually Wheels produced between June 1998 and June 1999.

Some wheels may develop fatigue cracks over time. This could lead to gradual air loss from the tire and, if not addressed, the eventual separation of the wheel and tire.

These wheels were designed to fit the full-ton vehicles of the following manufacturers: Ford F-series, General Motors-GMC, Chevrolet, Dodge Ram and Ford Econoline van.

Roll stamp is on the inside of the wheel, opposite the valve stem. The date code and part number follow "MADE IN USA."

To determine if wheels are included in this recall, check the part number and date of manufacture in the wheel roll stamp.

Classic Part Number	LTS Part Number
160231, 160232	160251, 160252
160241, 160242	160261, 160262
160281, 160282	160271, 160272
160291, 160292	
160301, 160302	

All recalled wheels will be replaced at no cost to you. Talk to your dealer or call the Alcoa Campaign Center at 888-270-3055.

