

JUL 26 2000

Mr. Sal Molina
Field Service Department Manager
Utility Trailer Manufacturing Company
17295 E. Railroad Street
City of Industry, CA 91748

NSA-11paw
00V-100.003
102.003

Dear Mr. Molina:

We have reviewed Utility Trailer Manufacturing Company's (Utility) Defect Information Report dated May 17, 2000, submitted in accordance with 49 CFR Part 573, "Defect and Noncompliance Reports." This recall involves 271 Utility 1999-2000 VS2R/VS2D van-refrigerated/dry freight trailers equipped with ConMet PreGreased trailer hubs and a tire inflation system, and manufactured from August 1998 through March 2000. The outboard bearing on the PreGreased trailer axle hubs used with the tire inflation systems may fail due to the intrusion of contaminants through the tire inflation system. An outboard bearing failure can result in a separation of the hub assembly from the spindle. The assigned recall identification number for this recall is 00V-100.003 (Utility Recall No. CMI-00-01).
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Utility is responsible for the remedy of these trailers from this date forward, regardless of vehicle age, mileage, or ownership.

Quarterly Status Reports

As stated in Part 573.6, submission of the first of six consecutive quarterly status reports is required within one month after the close of the calendar quarter in which notification to purchasers occurs. As stated in your report, owner notification was expected to begin June 15, 2000. Therefore, the first quarterly report will be due in this office by July 30, 2000.

Recall Communications

Communications pertaining to safety recalls and issued by Utility to more than one distributor, dealer, purchaser, or owner are to be submitted to this office within 5 days of issuance as described under 49 CFR Part 573.5(c)(9). Where this information is sent over a period time, the communications are to be submitted within 5 days from the date the communications were first sent, and furnish the date, or range of dates, each communication was issued. This includes information transmitted by computer, telefax, or other electronic means; and initial or interim communications. All copies are to be in readable form and a written transcript should be provided for each non-written communication. Also, if the communication was not nationally and uniformly distributed, then identify the criteria used for the distribution.

Manufacturer Communications

Part 573.8, "Notices, Bulletins and Other Communications," requires that every motor vehicle or motor vehicle equipment manufacturer shall furnish a copy of **all notices, bulletins, and other communications (including warranty and policy extension communiques and product improvement bulletins)** to manufacturers, distributors, dealers, or purchasers, regarding any defect in its vehicle or items of equipment (including any failure or malfunction beyond normal deterioration in use, any failure of performance, or any flaw or unintended deviation from design specifications), **whether or not such defect is safety related**. These notices or communications are to be submitted, regardless of the media used to transmit the information. Where communications are made orally or electronically, provide a transcript. In all other cases, provide the information in the media form used to transmit the information. On a case by case basis, we may require written transcripts of this material as well. Copies are to be submitted monthly, not more than 5 working days after the end of each month.

If you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Pat Wallace at (202) 366-5232 or fax at (202) 366-7882.

Sincerely,

/s/

Jonathan D. White, Chief
Recall Analysis Division
Office of Defects Investigation
Safety Assurance