

Mr. Ronnie Brown  
Technical Service Department  
Heil Trailer International  
PO Box 181100  
Chattanooga, TN 37414

JUN - 2 2000

NSA-11paw  
00V-127.001

Dear Mr. Brown:

We have reviewed Heil Trailer International's (Heil) Defect Information Report dated March 30, 2000, submitted in accordance with 49 CFR Part 573, "Defect and Noncompliance Reports." This recall involves 6 Heil petroleum tanker/trailers equipped with Bendix Trailer System Guard™ trailer air dryer, part number 5006050 (OEM P.N.) and 800676 (Aftermarket P.N.). The defect is that the retaining bolts for the reed covers on either end of the trailer air dryer may crack causing the bolt heads to come off. This condition may allow the reed cover to come off and the reed valve to become disengaged. If this occurs, the trailer may lose service braking and/or the trailer parking brakes can engaged without prior warning. Either of these conditions could cause a loss of control or a vehicle crash. **The assigned recall identification number for this recall is 00V-127.001.**

This recall was the subject of an Equipment Query, EQ00-002, conducted by the Office of Defects Investigation.

#### **Quarterly Status Reports**

It is our understanding that Bendix is conducting the owner notification and remedy for this campaign.

#### **Recall Communications**

Communications pertaining to safety recalls and issued by Heil 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