

SEP 10 2000

**INITIAL ACKNOWLEDGMENT FAX SHEET OF RECEIPT OF
DEFECT INFORMATION REPORT SUBMITTED UNDER 49 CFR PART 573**

Assigned Recall No. 00E-051 by the
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

Part 573 Report Date: August 28, 2000

MANUFACTURER: Dexter Axle

MANUFACTURER CONTACT: Mr. William L. Dunlap
Director of Engineering

FAX: 219-295-8666

SUBJECT: 6,432 axles fitted with 6 bolt brake drums manufactured between February and August 2000. These brake drums had undergone a design change which rendered them incompatible with certain cast aluminum wheels produced by American Racing Equipment, Inc. Brake drums used with these wheels do not provide sufficient mounting surface area for support of these wheels. Insufficient surface area will result in loosening of the wheel bolts which may cause the wheel(s) to become detached from the vehicle. Loss of the wheel(s) could result in a vehicle crash.

This is an initial acknowledgment for this recall. A formal acknowledgment letter will be forthcoming shortly. After our review of your report and associated documents, we may have additional comments or concerns.

NOTIFICATION TO PURCHASERS:

We have reviewed your proposed owner notification letter and it does not meet the requirements of Part 577. According to the requirements of Part 577, the manufacturer is required to tell the consumer of approximately how long the remedy campaign will take. Please incorporate this information into the customer letter prior to mailing.

Also, Section 577.5(a) was amended as of July 7, 1995. This section requires the marking of envelopes in which recall notification letters are sent. These envelopes shall bear, in all capital letters, the words "SAFETY," "RECALL" and "NOTICE," in any order. These words need to be a larger sized type than the consumer's name and address and also can be in bold print or in color.

Please provide us with a final version of the owner letter and envelop when it becomes available.

If you have any questions, please call:



Kelly Schuler, Safety Defect Analyst or Jonathan White, Chief
on (202) 366-5227 or by FAX (202) 366-7882
Recall Analysis Division

Faxed 9/10/00

SEP 28 2000

CERTIFIED MAIL
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Mr. William L. Duplap
Director of Engineering
Dexter Axle
P.O. Box 250
Elkhart, IN 46515

NSA-11kjs
00E-051

Dear Mr. Dunlap:

We have reviewed Dexter Axle's Defect Information Report dated August 28, 2000, submitted in accordance with 49 CFR Part 573, "Defect and Noncompliance Reports." This recall involves 6,432 axles fitted with 6 bolt brake drums manufactured between February and August 2000. These brake drums had undergone a design change which rendered them incompatible with certain cast aluminum wheels produced by American Racing Equipment, Inc. Brake drums used with these wheels do not provide sufficient mounting surface area for support of these wheels. Insufficient surface area will result in loosening of the wheel bolts which could cause the wheel(s) to separate from the vehicle. Loss of the wheel(s) could result in a vehicle crash. *The assigned NHTSA identification number for this campaign is 00E-051.*

Dexter Axle is responsible for the remedy of this equipment from this date forward, regardless of age or ownership.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION REQUESTED

In order for us to complete our file on this matter, please provide the following information:

1. Furnish a summary of events, including dates, which led to the discovery of the problem, production change, and the determination of the defect. The summary should include, but not be limited to, owner reports, field reports, accidents, lawsuits, warranty claim/part sales analyses, investigations or analyses, surveys, and meetings which occurred prior to the determination to conduct a safety recall.

2. Furnish an illustration and description of the recalled component. The description should include an identification of where the failure or defect occurs.
3. Furnish the name of the supplier, part number, and size of the subject drums.

Please provide this information, referencing the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's identification codes on page 1 of this letter, to this office by **October 12, 2000**.

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. The current calendar quarter began on July 1 and ends on September 30, 2000. If owner notification began during this time period, your first quarterly report is due in this office by October 30, 2000.

The following chart provides due dates for each of the six quarterly reports.

<u>QUARTER</u>	<u>QUARTER BEGINS</u>	<u>QUARTER ENDS</u>	<u>DUE DATE</u>
1 st Quarter	July 1, 2000	September 30, 2000	October 30, 2000
2 nd Quarter	October 1, 2000	December 31, 2000	January 30, 2001
3 rd Quarter	January 1, 2001	March 31, 2001	April 30, 2001
4 th Quarter	April 1, 2001	June 30, 2001	July 30, 2001
5 th Quarter	July 1, 2001	September 30, 2001	October 30, 2001
6 th Quarter	October 1, 2001	December 31, 2001	January 30, 2002

Recall Communications

Communications pertaining to safety recalls and issued by Dexter Axle 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. Kelly Schuler at (202) 366-5227 or fax at (202) 366-7882.

Sincerely,



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

NHTSA:NSA:ODI
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