



RECEIVED

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OFFICE  
DEFECTS INVESTIGATION August 28, 2000

Associate Administrator for Enforcement  
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration  
400 Seventh St. S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20590

00E-051 (01)

Gentlemen:

Dexter Axle has determined that a condition potentially involving motor vehicle safety may exist in vehicles produced by certain trailer manufacturers beginning February, 2000 through August, 2000. We are in the process of determining which customers have received product that may be involved.

During the stated time frame, some axles were fitted with 6 bolt brake drums that had undergone a design change. This change has rendered them incompatible with certain aluminum wheels made by others. We have had reports that these improperly matched wheels are being used by some of our customers. The mismatch of the wheel / hub interface can cause loosening of the wheel fasteners. We will be contacting our customers in an effort to determine which ones may be using these aluminum wheels on their vehicles. To date, there have been four (4) reports of wheel loss and two (2) reports of difficulty in keeping the wheel nuts tightened. We are not aware of any casualty losses resulting from these failures.

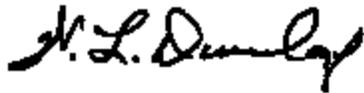
Accordingly, Dexter Axle is entering into a voluntary recall campaign. The recall will involve the addition of a disc between the wheel and hub mounting faces. This disc will effectively increase the surface area of the hub to allow clamping of the aluminum wheel.

For any vehicle manufacturer using the suspect combination, we will ask them to provide information pertaining to their dealers and the owners of the affected vehicles. Dealers will be provided with pictorial representation of the mismatched combination and will be asked to inspect vehicles in their possession. They will be instructed to make the necessary repairs to any vehicle found to exhibit this condition. Private owners of suspect vehicles will be notified in writing and asked to return their vehicles to the nearest dealer for inspection and correction of the defect.

00E-051 (02)

Please provide Dexter Axle with a written acknowledgment of this letter and the campaign number assigned.

Sincerely,



William L. Dunlap  
Director of Engineering  
Service and Warranty

Attachments:

Sample letter to dealer  
Sample letter to owner

[ date ]

[Dealer name]

**Reference: RECALL NO. XXX-XXX**

Dear [ manufacturer's name ] Dealer:

Dexter Axle has determined that a condition involving motor vehicle safety may exist in certain trailers produced by [ manufacturer's name ] between February, 2000 and approximately August , 2000.

The condition relates to trailers fitted with certain cast aluminum wheels produced by American Racing Equipment, Inc. , identified as model AR-62. The defect is confined to only trailers using six (6) bolt wheels. Some of the axles supplied to the trailer manufacturer from February, 2000 through August, 2000 may use brake drums that 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. Loose wheel fasteners can result in unexpected detachment of the wheel(s). Loss of the wheel(s) could result in a vehicle crash.

The attached list of the affected trailers at your location was provided by the manufacturer. If any of these listed vehicles have already been delivered to the retail customer, please advise Dexter Axle immediately. Provide us with the name and address of the owner so that we may send proper notification of the recall. Dexter will provide replacement parts and reimburse you for reasonable inspection and labor costs.

Please service any vehicles still in your inventory, before delivery to the retail customer. Inspection and repair should be done in the following manner:

1. Determine if trailer is fitted with aluminum wheels or steel wheels. If the trailer does not have aluminum wheels, no further action will be required. For trailers with aluminum wheels, proceed to step #2.
2. Jack up and support the vehicle as recommended by the manufacturer.
3. Remove all of the wheels and inspect. If the hub face area of the brake drum looks like fig. #1, no repairs will be necessary. Replace the wheels

and wheel nuts. Tighten nuts in the sequence shown in fig. #2 to 90 to 120 ft. lbs torque.

If the hub face looks like fig. #3, proceed to step #4.

4. Inspect the wheels. On the back side of the wheels' center section, look for the manufacturers identification "ARE" and the part number AR-62. See fig. #4. If the identifiers are NOT found, re-install the wheels and tighten the nuts to 90 to 120 ft. lbs torque. If the wheels match the description, proceed to step #5.
5. Align the holes in the spacer disc (fig. #5) to the wheel studs. Slide the disc onto the hub. Position the wheel onto the wheel studs and install six (6) wheel nuts. Tighten the nuts in the sequence shown in fig. #2 to 90 to 120 ft. lbs torque.

A flat rate of 15 minutes (.25 hours) per wheel will be allowed for inspection and installation of spacer disc.

Sincerely,

William L. Dunlap  
Director of Engineering

Attachments:

Vehicle listing  
(5) photographs

00 E-057 (05)

[ date ]

[customer name]

**Reference: RECALL NO. XXX-XXX**

Dear [manufacturer] Customer:

This notice is being sent to you in accordance with the requirements of the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act.

Dexter Axle has determined that a condition involving motor vehicle safety exists in certain trailers produced by [manufacturer's name] between February 2000 and August 2000. This condition does not exist in all vehicles produced during that time period. Our records indicate that you own one or more of these trailers identified with the following VIN:

**[ Insert VIN here ]**

The nature of the defect relates to a mis-match condition between American Racing Equipment, Inc., Model AR-62 aluminum wheels and the wheel mounting surface which could result in loosening of the wheel fasteners. Loose wheel fasteners can result in unexpected detachment of the wheel(s). Loss of the wheel(s) could result in a vehicle crash.

Accordingly, Dexter Axle is entering into a voluntary recall campaign. The recall campaign will involve inspection and possible installation of a steel disc between the hub face and the wheel. In order to determine if your vehicles axles are affected, please confirm that the trailer is fitted with aluminum wheels. If you are unable to make that determination, please have your nearest trailer repair facility assist you.

If repairs are necessary, most authorized [ manufacturer] dealers can provide that service. If the dealer nearest you is not equipped to perform the repairs or if you prefer to have the work done by any other local trailer repair facility, ask them to contact the Dexter Axle Service Department for instructions.

The toll free number to call is 1-800-400-2164. Someone will be available to assist you between the hours of 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM Eastern Standard Time. Repairs will be made at no cost to you.

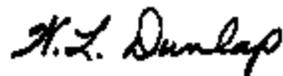
If you no longer own the affected vehicle or, for any other reason cannot have the recall service work performed, please notify us in writing. If the vehicle has been sold, give the name and address of the subsequent purchaser if it is known and/or the disposition of the trailer.

If you believe that Dexter Axle has failed to remedy this defect or that there has been unreasonable delay in securing the repair, you may submit a complaint to:

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

or call their Hotline @ 1-800-424-9393 and 1-202-366-0123 for Washington DC area residents.

Sincerely,



William L. Dunlap  
Manager, Customer Applications,  
Service and Warranty



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September 11, 2000

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

Attention :Ms. Kelly Schuler

Dear Ms. Schuler:

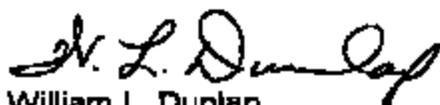
Pursuant to our telephone conversation of this date, this letter will confirm the population of recalled axles and the remedy for the voluntary recall campaign #00E-051.

We have determined that the population of mis-matched wheels on axles is six thousand thirty two (6432) pieces according to the vendor of that wheel. The subject wheel was a special model produced for Tredit Tire and Wheel Co. Inc. by American Racing Equipment, Inc. These wheels were used by Dexter Axle customers during a period beginning February, 2000 through August, 2000.

During the stated time frame some axles were fitted with 6 bolt brake drums that had undergone a design change. This change has rendered them incompatible with those aluminum wheels. We will be contacting our customers in an effort to determine which vehicles may be affected. The population of vehicles is estimated to be one thousand six hundred (1600) units. To date, there have been four (4) reports of wheel loss and two (2) reports of difficulty in keeping the wheel nuts tightened. We are not aware of any casualty losses resulting from these failures.

Accordingly, Dexter Axle is entering into a voluntary recall campaign. The recall will involve the addition of a steel disc, installed between the wheel and hub mounting faces. This disc will effectively increase the surface area of the hub to allow clamping of the aluminum wheel.

Sincerely,

  
William L. Dunlap  
Director of Engineering  
Service and Warranty

On AUGUST 28th, 2001, DEXTER AXLE/ SOUTHWEST EXPRESSLINE(MFR) decided that (a defect which relates to motor vehicle safety)(a noncompliance with Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard No. \_\_\_\_\_) exists in the motor vehicles listed below, and is furnishing notification to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration in accordance with 49 CFR Part 573 Defect and Noncompliance Reports.

Date this report was prepared: 6/22/2001

Furnish the manufacturer's identification code for this recall (if applicable): #00R-051

1. Identify the full corporate name of the fabricating manufacturer of the vehicle being recalled. If the recalled vehicle is imported, provide the name and mailing address of the designated agent as prescribed by 49 U.S.C. §30164.

UNITED EXPRESSLINE, INC./ D.B.A. SOUTHWEST EXPRESSLINE  
68939 M-103 WHITE PIGEON, MI 49099

Identify the corporate official, by name and title, whom the agency should contact with respect to this recall.

LYNN WOODIWISS, GENERAL MANAGER SOUTHWEST EXPRESSLINE

Telephone Number: 616 483-2345 Fax No.: 616 483-7493

Name and Title of Person who prepared this report.

LYNN WOODIWISS  
GENERAL MANAGER

Signed: 

<sup>1</sup>Each manufacturer must furnish a report, to the Associate Administrator for Safety Assurance, for each defect or noncompliance condition which relates to motor vehicle safety.

This guide was developed from 49 CFR Part 573, "Defect and Noncompliance Reports" and also outlines information currently requested. Any questions, please consult the complete Part 573 or contact Mr. Jon White at (202) 366-3226 or by FAX at (202) 366-7882.

1. Identify the Vehicle Model Involved in the Recall

2. Identify the Vehicles Involved in the Recall, for each make and model or applicable vehicle line (provide illustrations or photographs as necessary to describe the vehicle), provide:

**SOUTHWEST**  
Make(s): EXPRESSLINE Model Years Involved: 2000 Model(s): STEEL UNIBODY TRAILERS

Production Dates: Beginning: 2/22/00 Ending: 3/10/00

VIN Range: Beginning: 48B500V34Y2021688 Ending: 48B500NZZ12023958

Vehicle Type: TRAILER Bodystyle: STEEL UNIBODY TRAILERS

Descriptive information which characterizes/distinguishes the recalled vehicles from those model vehicles not included in the recall:

THE TRAILER WOULD HAVE HAD TO HAVE BOTH 5200# AXLES & ALUMINUM WHEELS

TO BE PART OF THE RECALL.

Make(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Model Years Involved: \_\_\_\_\_ Model(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Production Dates: Beginning: \_\_\_\_\_ Ending: \_\_\_\_\_

VIN Range: Beginning: \_\_\_\_\_ Ending: \_\_\_\_\_

Vehicle Type: \_\_\_\_\_ Bodystyle: \_\_\_\_\_

Descriptive information which characterizes/distinguishes the recalled vehicles from those model vehicles not included in the recall:

Make(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Model Years Involved: \_\_\_\_\_ Model(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Production Dates: Beginning: \_\_\_\_\_ Ending: \_\_\_\_\_

VIN Range: Beginning: \_\_\_\_\_ Ending: \_\_\_\_\_

Vehicle Type: \_\_\_\_\_ Bodystyle: \_\_\_\_\_

Descriptive information which characterizes/distinguishes the recalled vehicles from those model vehicles not included in the recall:

Identify the approximate percentage of the production of all the recalled models manufactured by your company between the inclusive dates of manufacture provided above, that the recalled model population represents. For example, if the recall involved Widgets equipped with certain items of equipment from January 1, 1996 through April 1, 1997, then what was the percentage of the recalled Widgets of all Widgets manufactured during that time period. .007%

Identify the Recall Population

3. Furnish the total number of vehicles recalled potentially containing the defect or noncompliance.

<u>Model</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Number of Vehicles Potentially Involved</u>
<u>PLEASE SEE ATTACHED LETTER SENT TO DEXTER AXLE, (26) WITH SERIAL NUMBERS,</u>		
<u>DEALER NAME'S AND CONTACTS. NOTE: THE SERIAL NUMBERS IN THE LETTER IS THE LAST</u>		
<u>FIVE NUMBERS OF THE VIN NUMBER.</u>		

Total Number Potentially Affected by the Recall: 26 TRAILERS

4. Furnish the approximate percentage of the total number of vehicles estimated to actually contain the defect or noncompliance: .0077

Identify and describe how the recall population was determined—in particular how the recalled models were selected and the basis for the beginning and final dates of manufacture of the recalled vehicles:

ONCE WE FOUND OUT THERE WAS A PROBLEM, WE IDENTIFIED IT WHEN THE FIRST SHIPMENT  
OF AXLES CAME IN THAT WERE OF THE NEW DESIGN. WE THEN WERE ABLE BY MEANS OF OUR  
COMPUTER SYSTEM TO MATCH UP 5200# AXLES & ALUMINUM OUTLAN WHEELS. BOTH OF WHICH  
NEEDED TO BE ON THE TRAILER, BEFORE THERE WAS A POTENTIAL PROBLEM. THE REPORT  
SHOWED ONLY 26 TRAILERS DURING THIS TIME PERIOD MATCHED BOTH ITEMS BEING ON THE  
TRAILERS.

**III. Describe the Defect or Noncompliance**

5. Describe the defect or noncompliance. The description should address the nature and physical location of the defect or noncompliance. Illustrations should be provided as appropriate.

**SEE DETTER ATTACHED PHOTOS AND LETTERS.**

**Describe the cause(s) of the defect or noncompliance condition.**

**SEE DETTER ATTACHED PHOTOS AND LETTERS.**

**Describe the consequence(s) of the defect or noncompliance condition.**

**SEE DETTER ATTACHED PHOTOS AND LETTERS**

**Identify any warning which can (a) precede or (b) occur.**

**SEE DETTER ATTACHED PHOTOS AND LETTERS**

**If the defect or noncompliance is in a component or assembly purchased from a supplier, identify the supplier by corporate name and address.**

**DETER AXLE**

**2900 INDUSTRIAL PARKWAY EAST**

**P.O. BOX 250**

**PHONE: 219 295-7888**

**ELKHART, IN 46515**

**FAX: 219 295-8666**

**Identify the name and title of the chief executive officer or knowledgeable representative of the supplier:**

**JIM MILLER ENGINEERING IS CURRENTLY IN CHARGE OF THE RECALL.**

IV. Provide the Chronology in Determining the Defect/Noncompliance

If the recall is for a defect, complete item 6, otherwise item 7.

6. With respect to a defect, furnish a chronological summary (including dates) of all the principle events that were the basis for the determination of the defect. The summary should include, but not be limited to, the number of reports, accidents, injuries, fatalities, and warranty claims. DEKTER WOULD HAVE THESE REPORTS.

7. With respect to a noncompliance, identify and provide the test results or other data (in chronological order and including dates) on which the noncompliance was determined.

DEKTER WOULD HAVE THESE REPORTS

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V. Identify the Remedy

8. Furnish a description of the manufacturer's remedy for the defect or noncompliance. Clearly describe the differences between the recall condition and the remedy.

A SPECIAL PLATE WAS DESIGNED TO ALLOW THE RIM TO BE DRAWN UP TO THE FACE OF THE AXLE AND ALLOW THE NUTS TO STAY TIGHT.

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Clearly describe the distinguishing characteristics of the remedy component/assembly versus the recalled component/assembly.

SEE ATTACHED DEKTER SHEET WHICH HAS PICTURE

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Identify and describe how and when the recall condition was corrected in production. If the production remedy was identical to the recall remedy in the field, so state. If the product was discontinued, so state.

DEXTER CHANGED HUB FACE DESIGN

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#### VI. Identify the Recall Schedule

Furnish a schedule or agenda (with specific dates) for notification to other manufacturers, dealers/retailers, and purchasers. Please, identify any foreseeable problems with implementing the recall.

ATTACHED IS A LIST SOUTHWEST EXPRESSLINE HAS GIVEN TO DEXTER AXLE TO CONTACT AND INFORM OUR DEALERS OF THE PROBLEM AND GIVE THEM THE PROPER WAY OF FIXING ANY PROBLEM THEY FIND.

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#### VII. Furnish Recall Communications

9. Furnish a final copy of all notices, bulletins, and other communications that relate directly to the defect or noncompliance and which are sent to more than one manufacturer, distributor, or purchaser. This includes all communications (including both original and follow-up) concerning this recall from the time your company determines the defect or noncompliance condition on, not just the initial notification. *A DRAFT copy of the notification documents should be submitted to this office by Fax (202-366-7882) for review prior to mailing.*

**Note that these documents are to be submitted separately from those provided in accordance with Part 573.8 requirements.**

01/17/2001

# Southwest Expressline

August 30, 2000

Dexter Axle  
2900 Industrial Parkway East  
Elkhart, In 46515

Dear Sir or Madam:

Here is the list of our dealers and the serial #'s of the trailers that may have the problem.

1. Hitch House Inc. -9102 Telegraph - Redford MI, 48139 / 888-448-2476 / At: Ury Barnes

Serial #'s 21688 - #22218 - #23073 -#23938

2. J. R. Trailer Sales - 10828 Dover RD - Apple Creek OH, 44606 / 330-798-1692/ At: James

Serial # 21721

3. Trailer Sales, Inc. -865 W. Jericho Tpk. - Smithtown NY, 11787 /631-864-6464 /At. Bob Jarasak

Serial # 21322- # 23137-

4. Elliott's Auto Connection South - 3319 South LaFountain - Kokomo In, 46902/ 765-455-8898/  
At: Tony Elliott

Serial # 21740 - # 21742 - #21825

5. DLI Sales & Service- 1654 Brandt Pike - P O Box 221- Dayton OH, 45404 / 937-233-4041 /  
At: Don Turbert

Serial # 21744

6. Sundowner of Kentucky, Inc. -1281 E. Blue Lick Rd - Shepherdsville KY, 40165/ 888-955-6763/  
At: Phyllis

Serial # 21941

7. Beck's Propane & Marine, Inc. -7607 North US 27 - St. Johns, MI 48879 / 800-729-2638 /  
At: Nathan Beck

Serial # 22016

8. Advanced Pools & Tech. - 1265 E. Michigan - Battle Creek, MI. 49014 / 616-962-6415 /  
At: Aaron

Serial # 22150- # 22356



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9. Trailer World, Inc. - 800 Three Springs Rd. - Bowling Green KY, 42104-7520 / 800-872-2835 /  
 Att: Keith - Dir of Sales

Serial # 22213

10. Dahlberg Sales Inc. - Box 203, E. Hwy 12 - Willmar, Mn. 56201 / 320-235-4180 /  
 Att: Mark Dahlberg

Serial # 22367

11. Flying A Motorsports- P.O. Box 274-4405 Cotton Dodd Rd - Cuba MO, 65453 / 573-885-4005 /  
 Att: Allen Cape

Serial # 22420

12. American Trailer Sales, Inc - Junction Of I-70 Illinois 143- Highland, Ill. 62249 / 618-654-4461 /  
 Att: Chris or Bob

Serial # 22429

13. Ry-Chass, Inc. - 1750 E. Waterloo - Akron, Oh. 44306 / 330-798-1698 / Att: John Hughes

Serial # 22515

14. Double E Trailers - 15131 Feller Street - Forest Lake, MN. 55025 / 651-464-6009 / Att: Tom

Serial # 22551

15. Progressive Marine - 2215 Cleveland Rd - Sandusky, OH. 44870 / 419-624-1218 / Att: Chris

Serial #23216

16. Jensen Auto Body, Inc - 105 Ash Street - Whitby, Ontario, CN L 1N 4B1 / 905-668-3101 /  
 Att: Brian Jensen

Serial # 23459

17. R.C. Leasing -23283 US 33- Elkhart In. 46517 / 219-875-8201 / Att: Randy Chupp

Serial # 23556

18. A & W Auto Truck & Trailer - 17W411 North Frontage RD - Durian Ill. 60561 /800-258-6408 /  
 Att: Andy Wurst

Serial # 23592

19. Joe Sadana - 3680 N. S.R. 267 - Brownsburg, In. 46112 / 317-852-6912 / Att Joe

Serial # 23807

For a number of months I thank you for your willingness to help resolve this potential problem.  
Again if you need more information please call me at 888-254-2424.

Sincerely,



**Woody Woodriss**  
General Manager



1-800-400-2164

August 20, 2000

Southwest Expressline, Inc.  
68639 M 103  
White Pigeon, MI 49099

## PRODUCT ALERT

Dear Customer:

A recent design change to the hub face area of our Dexter brake drum #008-201-xx, features a circular weight reduction groove around the wheel bolt circle. (see photo #1)

While the redesigned hub face provides ample area for proper clamping of Dexter steel wheels, as well as other manufacturers steel wheels known to us, it has come to our attention that a certain aluminum wheel with a smaller diameter mounting surface is not adequately supported when used on our six (6) bolt brake drums. The wheel in question is manufactured by American Racing Equipment (ARE, Inc.). The wheel is known as "Outlaw II", part number AR-62. It is a 15" x 7" modular style with a 656 (6 bolt on 5.5" circle) mounting pattern. Do not use this wheel on Dexter's 8-201-xx hubs.

The insufficient contact area between this wheel and our hub can result in loosening of the wheel fasteners which may cause the wheel(s) to become detached from the vehicle. Unexpected loss of wheels can result in severe injury or property damage.

We began shipping the new hub configuration in February, 2000. Any axles or parts received prior to that will not be affected.

In the event you have already produced trailers with this wheel / hub combination, please contact Dexter Axle for instructions and parts. The toll free number to call is 1-800-400-2164. Someone will be available to assist you between the hours of 8:00 AM to 6:00 PM Eastern Standard Time. Dexter Axle will bear the costs of inspection and repairs to any units affected by this condition.

Dexter Axle is entering into a voluntary recall of certain axles produced during a period from February, 2000 through August, 2000. The axle models affected are D62, D80, #11 and #12 Torflex with six (6) bolt brake drums equipped with the American Racing wheel detailed above. This recall does not include idler axles or other bolt patterns. If you purchase loose components to use on axles manufactured by others, the affected part is #008-201-xx, 12" x 2" brake drum with 6 on 5.50" bolt pattern.

The correction for this condition will be the addition of a thin spacer disc that is placed onto the hub before installing the wheel. This disc will provide the necessary surface area to properly support the aluminum wheel.

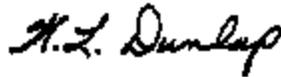
Due to the myriad of wheel offerings on the market, it has become far too difficult for Dexter to stay current on all of the other wheel manufacturer's products. Therefore, we

have needed to reshim the recent change and revert back in the earlier configuration.  
See photo 13.

Please be advised that this does not guarantee that all combinations of wheels will be compatible and it remains the responsibility of the user to ensure compatibility between Dexter products and those of other manufacturers.

Please contact the writer at 219-296-7280 if you have any questions or pertinent information to offer. If your company wishes to administrate the recall as it affects you, please note that in your comments.

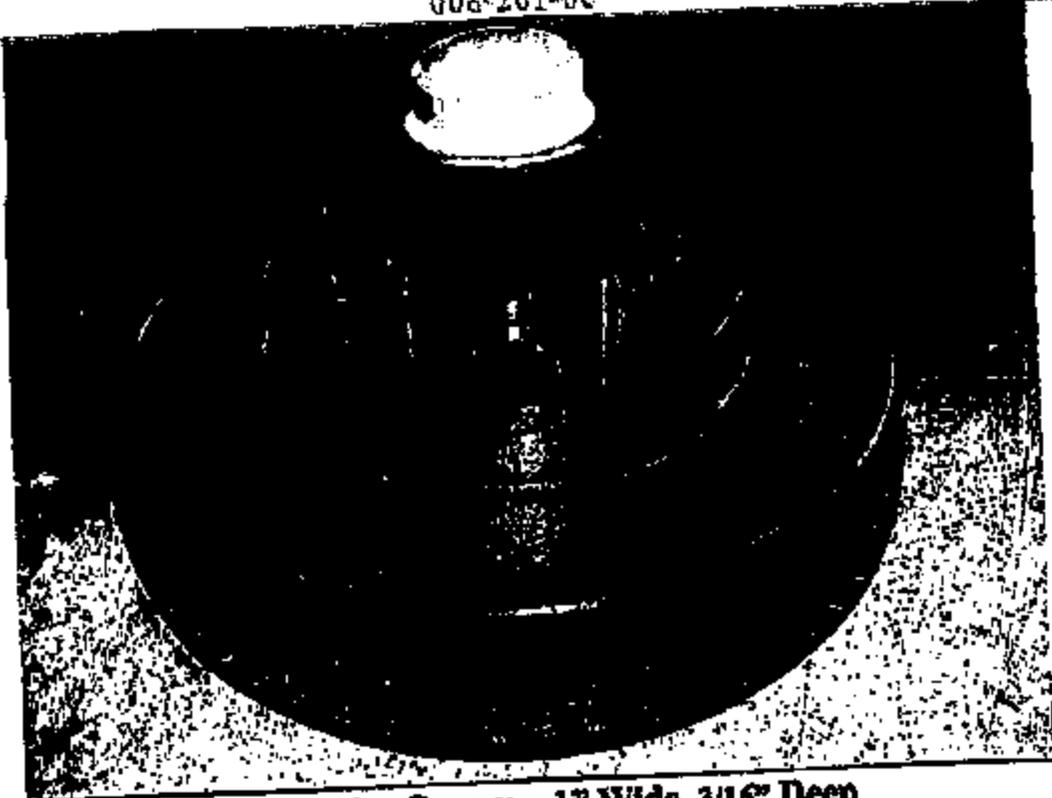
Sincerely,



William L. Dunlap  
Director of Engineering

5

008-201-00



**Picture 1 - Groove - 1" Wide, 3/16" Deep**



**Picture 2 - No Grooves**



September 18, 2000

Southwest Expressline, Inc.  
68939 M 103  
White Pigeon, MI 49099

## FYI – Product Alert

Dear Customer,

On August 28, 2000, Dexter Axle entered into a voluntary recall campaign. This recall relates to trailers fitted with American Racing Equipment aluminum wheels (Part # AR-62) combined with Dexter Axle six bolt hubs featuring a weight reduction groove around the wheel bolt circle (Part # 008-201). This suspect combination may exist in vehicles produced by trailer manufacturers beginning February, 2000 through August, 2000.

It has come to our attention that many of our valued customers believe they are continuing to receive the AR-62 aluminum wheel from Tredit branches. It is our understanding that Tredit has the AR-62 aluminum wheel in inventory, but has discontinued any sale of this particular aluminum wheel to Dexter Axle customers. Any Dexter Axle customer who is continuing to purchase aluminum wheels from Tredit must ensure the new designed aluminum wheel is received.

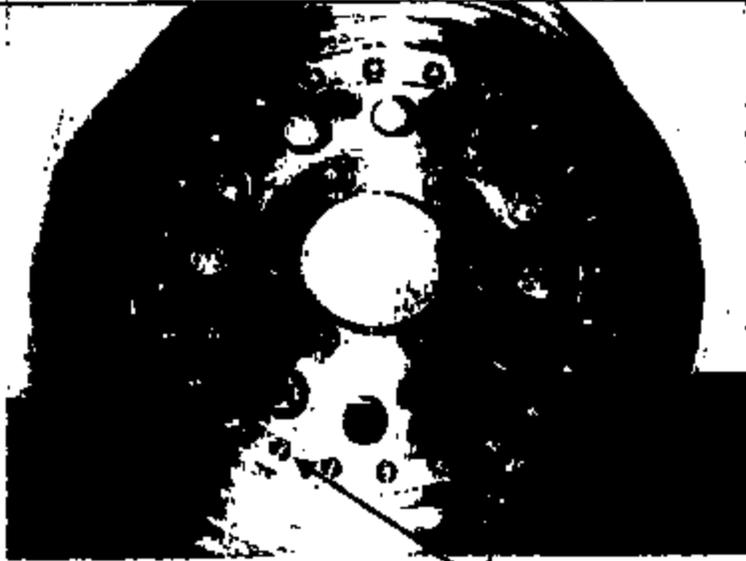
Attached are pictures to assist you in determining the difference between the AR-62 aluminum wheel and the new designed aluminum wheel.

Sincerely,

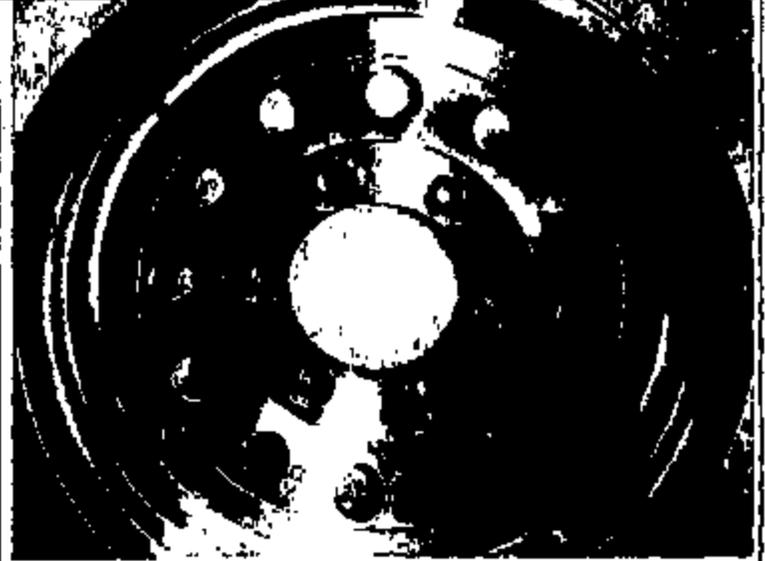
A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'W. L. Dunlap'.

William L. Dunlap  
Director of Engineering

Front Side of Wheel



ARE AR-62 - Rivets



New Design Wheel - No Rivets

Back Side of Wheel



ARE AR-62



New Design Wheel - TRAZNL



0000000000

September 11, 2000

Southwest Expressline, Inc.  
68939 M 103  
White Pigeon, MI 49098

**NOTICE OF PRODUCT RECALL # 00E-051**

Dear Customer:

Dexter Axle is entering into a voluntary recall of certain axles produced during a period from February, 2000 through August, 2000. The axles affected will be only those using aluminum wheels from American Racing Equipment, Inc. known as the Outlaw II. This wheel, model AR-82 is a six (6) bolt on 5.50" pattern, 15" x 7" trailer wheel. This recall does not include idler axles or other optional bolt patterns. If you purchase loose components to use on axles or purchase axles from others using Dexter brake drums, the affected part is #008-201-xx, which is a 12" x 2" brake drum with 6 on 5.50" bolt pattern. Any axle(s) or brake drums produced before February, 2000 will NOT be affected.

As a result of a design change to the hub face area of this Dexter brake drum, we have discovered that the axles are incompatible with this particular American Racing Equipment cast aluminum wheel. Some of the brake drums used on Dexter axles during the stated time period may not provide sufficient mounting surface for proper clamping of this wheel. Insufficient surface area will result in loosening of the wheel bolts which may cause the wheel(s) to become detached from the vehicle. Detached wheels can result in a dangerous loss of control or impact to other persons and/or property.

According to information supplied by Tredit Tire and Wheel Company, your company purchased some of these American Racing Equipment wheels during the stated time period. If any of these wheels were used on Dexter axles during the stated time frame, we are requesting that you provide a list of the affected vehicles, their serial numbers and locations. We will also need dealer names and addresses, and if already retailed, the name and address of each retail owner in order for us to administer this recall campaign.

Please contact the writer if you have any questions or pertinent information to offer. If your company wishes to administrate the recall as it affects you, please note that in your comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'W. L. Dunlap'.

William L. Dunlap  
Director of Engineering  
Service and Warranty



Southwest Expressline/Attr: Woody  
88999 M 103  
White Pigeon, MI 49099  
USA

01V-218.001 (14)

**Reference: RECALL NO. # 00E-051**

Dear Southwest Expressline Dealer:

Dexter Axle has determined that a condition involving motor vehicle safety may exist in certain trailers produced by Southwest Expressline between February, 2000 and approximately August, 2000.

The condition relates to trailers fitted with certain cast aluminum wheels produced by American Racing Equipment, Inc., identified as model AR-62. The defect is confined to only trailers using six (6) bolt wheels. Some of the axles supplied to the trailer manufacturer from February 2000 through August 2000 may use brake drums that 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. Loose wheel fasteners can result in unexpected detachment of the wheel(s). Loss of the wheel(s) could result in a vehicle crash.

The attached list of the affected trailers at your location was provided by the manufacturer. If any of these listed vehicles have already been delivered to the retail customer, please advise Dexter Axle immediately. Provide us with the name and address of the owner so that we may send proper notification of the recall. Dexter will provide replacement parts and reimburse you for reasonable inspection and labor costs.

Please service any vehicles still in your inventory, before delivery to the retail customer. Inspection and repair should be done in the following manner:

1. Determine if trailer is fitted with aluminum wheels or steel wheels. If the trailer does not have aluminum wheels, no further action will be required. For trailers with aluminum wheels, proceed to step #2.
2. Jack up and support the vehicle as recommended by the manufacturer.
3. Remove the aluminum wheels and inspect the hub face. If the hub face area of the brake drum looks like fig. #1, no repairs will be necessary.
4. Re-install the wheels and wheel nuts. Tighten nuts in the sequence shown in fig. #2 to 90 to 120 ft. lbs. torque.  
If the hub face looks like fig. #3, proceed to step #4.





No Grooves on Hub Face

Figure #1

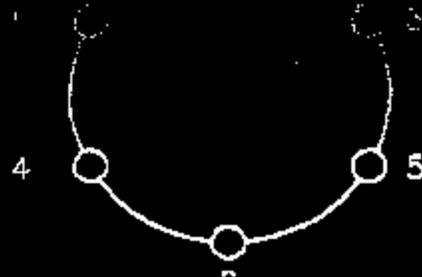


Figure #2 - TIGHTENING SEQUENCE

START NUTS BY HAND TO PREVENT CROSS-THREADING  
 TIGHTEN PROGRESSIVELY IN THREE (3) STAGES  
 STAGE 1 - 20 TO 25 LB FT  
 STAGE 2 - 50 TO 60 LB FT  
 STAGE 3 - 90 TO 120 LB FT



Grooves on Hub Face

Figure #3

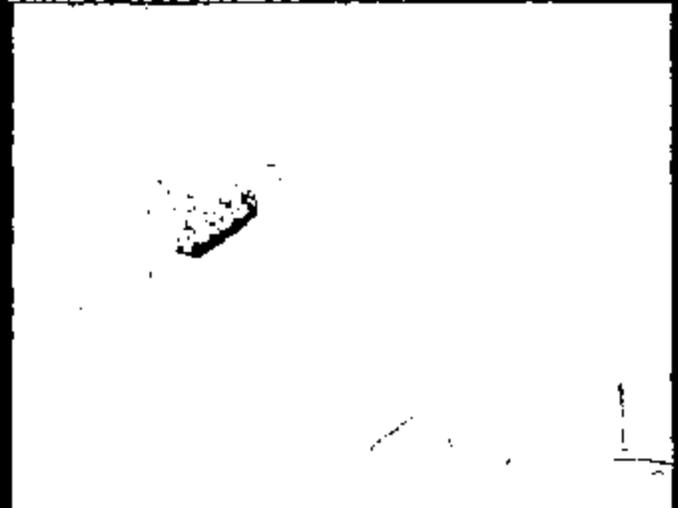


Figure #4

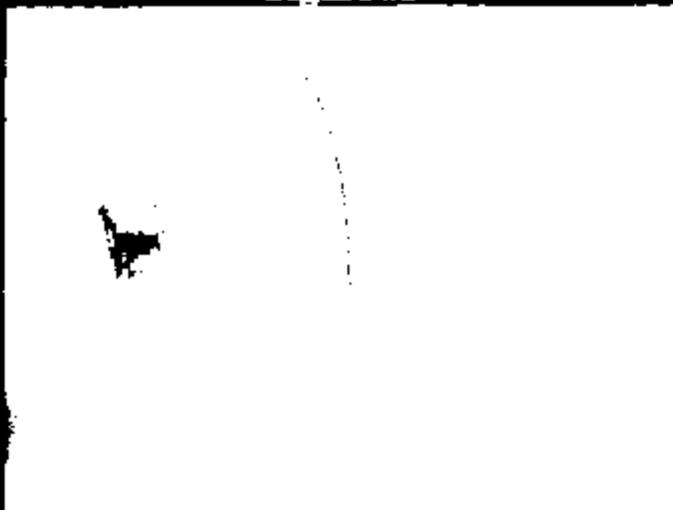


Figure #5



Figure #6