



INTERNATIONAL TRUCK AND ENGINE CORPORATION

8025 WAYNE TRACE, PO BOX 10000, FORT WAYNE, IN 46800-0000

TRUCK GROUP

October 11, 2000

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

00V-246.105
00V-246.205

Subject: Vehicle Safety Defect Initial Information Report

Pursuant to Part 573.5, this Vehicle Safety Defect Initial Information Report is submitted by International Truck and Engine Corporation.

This report relates to 20-EDL model ball-sockets on tie rods and drag links manufactured by TRW. Our contact at TRW is:

Dave Hopson
TRW Commercial Steering Systems
P.O. Box 60
Lafayette, IN 47902
Phone: (765) 429-1768

- (1) INTERNATIONAL RECALL NUMBER ASSIGNED:
00512 For Tie Rods and 00513 For Drag Links.
- (2) VEHICLE MODELS INVOLVED:
Recall 00512 for Tie Rods includes 2000, 4000, 5000, 8000 and 9000 model series.

Recall 00513 for Drag Links includes 1000, 2000, 3000, FE, RE, 4000 and 8000 model series.
- (3) MODEL YEARS INVOLVED: 1999 and 2000.
- (4) OTHER IDENTIFICATION NECESSARY TO DESCRIBE VEHICLES:
Only certain combinations of Model codes and Meritor or Dana front axle codes are involved.

- (5) **VEHICLE MANUFACTURING DATES:**
 - 00512: 7/5/99 through 11/31/99.
 - 00513: 7/5/99 through 10/31/99.

- (6) **VEHICLE POPULATION INVOLVED:**
 - 00512: Tie Rods: 8,760 vehicles.
 - 00513: Drag Links: 15,257 vehicles.

- (7) **PORTION OF POPULATION ESTIMATED TO CONTAIN DEFECT:** Sixty percent, 60%.

- (8) **DESCRIPTION OF DEFECT:** The heat-treating furnace was not operating to specified temperatures during the production of the suspect parts. Failed 20-EDL ball sockets have exhibited premature wear and ball stud separation because of low case depths and a lower than specification hardness of the bearings.

- (9) **RISK TO MOTOR VEHICLE SAFETY:** If the ball stud separates from the ball socket, the driver could lose steering control and possibly have a vehicular accident resulting in property damage, personal injury, or death.

- (10) **CHRONOLOGY OF PRINCIPAL EVENTS WHICH LED TO DETERMINATION OF A SAFETY DEFECT:**
 - A. 08/09/2000, TRW contacted International to discuss this issue for the first time.
 - B. 09/05/2000, TRW gave written notification of this issue to International and outlined suspect product shipped and part replacement recommendations.
 - C. 09/27/00, Meritor gave written notification of TRW's issue with the axles Meritor supplies to International.
 - D. 10/04/00, International extended the end date of the suspect population of vehicles from 10/31/99 to 11/31/99 based on the revised suspect population from Meritor's 9/27/00 notification to International.
 - E. 10/05/2000, International declared Safety Recalls 00512 and 00513.

- (11) **PROGRAM TO BE TAKEN TO REMEDY DEFECT:** Inspect all tie rods and drag links for the suspect date code range and replace those parts built within the suspect date range.

(12) THE SCHEDULE FOR THIS RECALL IS: Applies to both 00512 and 00513

Notify Field Service: Monday: 10/16/2000

Notify Dealers: Monday: 10/23/2000

Notify Customers: Monday: 11/06/2000

(13) PROCEDURE TO INFORM SECRETARY OF FAILURE TO REMEDY WITHOUT CHARGE: Paragraph to be added to owner notification letter as follows: If you take your vehicle to your International dealer on a mutually agreed upon service date and the dealer does not remedy this condition without charge on that date or within five days, you can obtain assistance by following the procedure described in the Owner Assistance Guide section of your Owner's Manual. You may also wish to submit a complaint to the Administrator, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 400 Seventh Street, S.W., Washington, DC 20590, or call the toll-free Auto Safety Hotline at 1-888-327-4236 if your International dealer fails to remedy or is unable to remedy this condition without charge or within a reasonable time.

(14) OWNER LETTER AND TECHNICAL LETTER: Refer to number (12).

The undersigned should be contacted for any additional information regarding this recall on (219) 461-1890.

Very truly yours,

INTERNATIONAL TRUCK AND ENGINE CORPORATION



R. L. Van Laar
Compliance Manager

Enclosure

Certified Mail: 7099-3400-0006-6832-4050

cc: B. S. Henriksen - TRC