



U.S. Department
of Transportation

National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration

400 Seventh Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20590

JAN 28 2005

CERTIFIED MAIL
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Mr. Leonard Barkan
Strick Corporation
225 Lincoln Highway
Fairless Hills, PA 19030-0009

NVS-214njs
EA03-022

Dear Mr. Barkan:

As you are aware, on January 25, 2005, ODI closed its investigation concerning greased wheel-end failures on certain Strick trailers. A copy of the closing report is attached. As we stated in our closing report, we believe this problem peaked several years ago and the trucking industry has evolved its maintenance policies to reduce the failures.

Although we have closed the investigation, ODI has decided to continue to monitor this matter and requests that Strick provide notification of all reports or complaints concerning new thermal event(s), wheel separation(s) or other wheel end failure(s) on any Strick trailer produced with a greased wheel end. This request is ongoing and remains in effect until December 31, 2005. As such, ODI requests prompt notification of any new incidents. Timeliness is critical in notifying ODI since there is a high likelihood that ODI will send a team to inspect the affected vehicle and would like to do so before repairs are performed, parts are lost or re-used, etc. Therefore, ODI requests that Strick provide the requested notification within one business day of the company becoming aware of the incidents. Requested incident details, at a minimum, include:

1. Owner's name, address, phone number;
2. Date of incident
3. Location of incident
4. VIN number of trailer
5. Description of incident
6. Trailer's current location
7. Date Strick was notified

Strick is to make the initial report via telephone or e-mail and follow-up with a letter. You are directed to contact Nate Seymour at (202)366-6965. Mr. Seymour's email address is nate.seymour@nhtsa.dot.gov. In the event that you are unable to contact Mr. Seymour, you are directed to contact the undersigned at (202)366-4933. My e-mail address is rboyd@nhtsa.dot.gov.



DOT AUTO SAFETY HOTLINE
888-DASH-2-DOT
888-327-4239

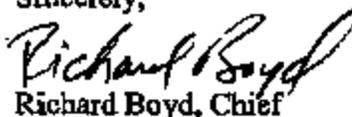
This letter is being sent to Strick pursuant to 49 U.S.C. § 30166, which authorizes NHTSA to conduct any investigation that may be necessary to enforce Chapter 301 of Title 49 and to request reports and the production of things. It constitutes a new request for information. Strick's failure to respond promptly and fully to this letter could subject Strick to civil penalties pursuant to 49 U.S.C. § 30165 or lead to an action for injunctive relief pursuant to 49 U.S.C. § 30163. (Other remedies and sanctions are available as well.) Please note that maximum civil penalties under 49 U.S.C. § 30165 have increased as a result of the recent enactment of the Transportation Recall Enhancement, Accountability, and Documentation (TREAD) Act, Public Law No. 106-414 (signed November 1, 2000). Section 5(a) of the TREAD Act, codified at 49 U.S.C. § 30165(b), provides for civil penalties of up to \$5,000 per day, with a maximum of \$15 million for a related series of violations, for failing or refusing to perform an act required under 49 U.S.C. § 30166. This includes failing to respond to ODI information requests.

If Strick cannot respond to any specific request or subpart(s) thereof, please state the reason why it is unable to do so. If on the basis of attorney-client, attorney work product, or other privilege, Strick does not submit one or more requested documents or items of information in response to this information request, Strick must provide a privilege log identifying each document or item withheld, and stating the date, subject or title, the name and position of the person(s) from, and the person(s) to whom it was sent, and the name and position of any other recipient (to include all carbon copies or blind carbon copies), the nature of that information or material, and the basis for the claim of privilege and why that privilege applies.

If Strick claims that any of the information or documents provided in response to this information request constitute confidential commercial material within the meaning of 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(4), or are protected from disclosure pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1905, Strick must submit supporting information together with the materials that are the subject of the confidentiality request, in accordance with 49 CFR Part 512, as amended (68 Fed. Reg. 44209 et seq; July 28, 2003), to the Office of Chief Counsel (NCC-113), National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Room 5219, 400 Seventh Street, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20590. Strick is required to submit two copies of the documents containing allegedly confidential information (except only one copy of blueprints) and one copy of the documents from which information claimed to be confidential has been deleted.

If you have any technical questions concerning this matter, please call Nate Seymour of my staff at (202) 366-6965.

Sincerely,



Richard Boyd, Chief
Medium and Heavy Duty Vehicle Division
Office of Defects Investigation