



GVW A GVW Holdings Company

551 S. Washington Street  
P.O. Box 190  
Hagerstown, IN 47346  
Telephone 765.489.5499  
Fax 765.489.5230  
www.autocartruck.com

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2006 MAY 18 A 8:47

OFFICE OF DEFECTS  
INVESTIGATION

May 10, 2006

Associate Administrator for Enforcement  
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration  
400 Seventh Street, S. W.  
Washington, DC 20590

06V-167  
(3 pages)

Re: Report Pursuant to 49 CFR 573.6  
Autocar, LLC, Recall No. A-0603

The following information is in accordance with the requirements of 49 CFR Part 573.6 as it applies to a defect relating to motor vehicle safety.

573.6(c)(1)  
Autocar, LLC

573.6(c)(2)  
Autocar WX, WXR and WXLL model, heavy-duty class 8 vehicles shipped between November 9, 2004 and April 25, 2006 and identified in the data book 3350101, 3350103, 3350104, 3350105, 3350201, 3350203, 3350204, 3350205.

573.6(c)(3)  
There are 250 potentially affected vehicles, with serial numbers in the range 201463 through 203515.

573.6(c)(4)  
80% of the vehicles in the above range are expected to contain the defect.

573.6(c)(5)  
The tabs on some of the lift axle spindle nuts may have been broken during assembly. When in place, the tabs on the nuts prevent the nuts from loosening. When the tabs are broken, the possibility exists that the nut might spin off. If this happens, the wheel and wheel end assembly could fall off.

**Figure 1** shows a nut with tabs on a spindle end.  
**Figure 2** shows the spindle nut with broken tabs.

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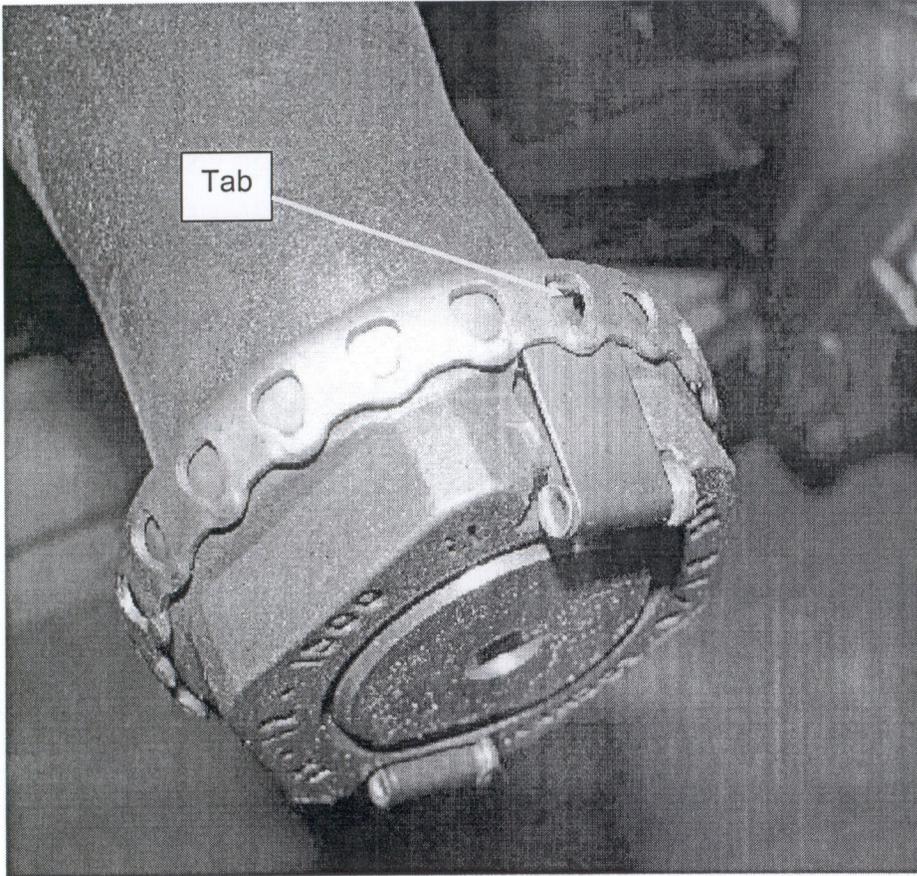


Figure 1

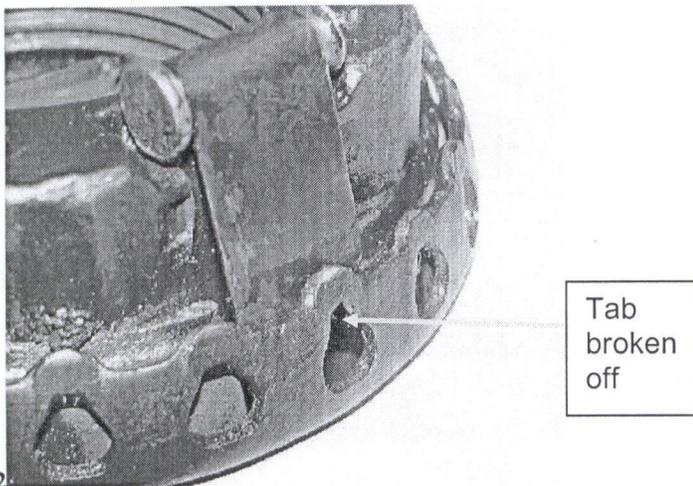


Figure 2

573.6 (c)(6)

- 4/25/06 The Autocar National Service Manager received an e-mail from Heil Environmental indicating that one of the Autocar customers had a concern over the spindle nuts loosening on lift axles on two of their units. Upon inspection the customer found that the tabs on the nuts were broken off.
- 5/4/06 The Autocar National Service Manager completed the inspection of failed parts and notified the relevant personnel at Autocar.
- 5/4/06 Autocar Quality sampled all units on site, completed the investigation, implemented a process change and added 100% inspection on the assembly line.
- 5/8/06 A Product Integrity Committee Meeting was held at Autocar and the committee decided to initiate a recall.

573.6(c)(7)

Not applicable

573.6(c)(8)(i)

Autocar will initiate a voluntary owner notification and recall based on the vehicle population found with the sales options described in 573.6(c)(2) above.

573.6(c)(8)(ii)

- 5/12/06 573.6 letter to NHTSA  
5/19/06 Owner Notification Letter to Office of Defects Investigation  
5/30/06 Owner Notification Letter to affected vehicle owners

573.6(c)(9)

Not Applicable

The number which Autocar LLC, has assigned to this recall for tracking purposes is A-0603.

Very truly yours,



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Jo Theart  
Engineering Compliance  
Autocar, LLC  
765 489 6040