

07V-269
(2 Pages)

SENT VIA FACSIMILE (202) 366-7882 & E-MAIL

Attn: Mr. George Person

Recall Management Division
Office of Defects Investigation (NEF-111)
Safety Assurance
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
400 Seventh Street SW
Washington, D.C. 20590

Re: **Removable Front Tow Hitch**
Peterbilt Recall No.: 507E
Kenworth Recall No.: 07KWA

Dear Mr. Person:

PACCAR Inc is furnishing notification to NHTSA in accordance with 49 CFR Part 573 "Defect and Noncompliance Reports." This motor vehicle safety defect involves vehicles manufactured by the Kenworth and Peterbilt divisions of PACCAR Inc.

Description of the Defect

PACCAR's Kenworth and Peterbilt divisions have determined that there is a potential safety defect with respect to the removable front tow hitch assembly manufactured by Pacific Steel Castings. Quench cracks have been found in the affected assemblies which could cause the tow hitch to fail.

Identification of Affected Vehicles

Kenworth has identified 5,614 2005 – 2008 year vehicles, models T600/660, T800 & T2000 manufactured between August 9, 2004 and May 4, 2007. Peterbilt has identified 3,957 2005 - 2008 year vehicles, models 385 and 386 manufactured between May 31, 2005 and January 9, 2007.

Chronology of Events Leading to Recall

On April 9, 2007 Kenworth engineering received notification from the field that during the decking/un-decking of a vehicle on of the A20-1009 tow hitch assemblies failed. The failed tow hitch was returned to the Kenworth division office for evaluation and examination by the PACCAR Technical Center. This evaluation determined that there were quench cracks present in the failure location of the pin.

In early 2006 Peterbilt received a single report of a tow hitch that slightly cracked when loaded, but did not fail. This information coupled with the available performance validation data

indicating minimal margin of required strength lead Peterbilt to modify the design to address the transition zone and the possibility of quench cracks. The new part went into production in February 2007. After receiving notification from Kenworth about the tow hitch failures, Peterbilt decided to follow suit and address their vehicles in the same manner as Kenworth.

Description of Remedy

Kenworth and Peterbilt will each initiate a Safety Recall of all affected trucks. The recall repair will consist of replacing the affected tow pin assembly with the revised Peterbilt design.

Identification of Recall Schedule

The Kenworth number for this campaign is "07KWA". Peterbilt's number for this campaign is "507E". PACCAR's truck divisions will administer the recalls.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Kenneth R. Brownstein". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kenneth R. Brownstein
Senior Counsel

cc: Patricia Wallace, NHTSA
Delie Lopez, NHTSA

KRB:kaf

E-mail: ken.brownstein@paccar.com