



March 21, 2012

Associate Administrator for Safety Assurance (NSA-01)  
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration  
1200 New Jersey Ave SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Subject: Part 573 Defect and Noncompliance Report

Dear Sir or Madam:

A supplier, Dexter Axle, has notified Featherlite Trailers that it has initiated a safety recall on certain electric/hydraulic actuators supplied to Featherlite by Dexter Axle, which has been installed on some of our trailers. Featherlite has determined that a defect, which relates to motor vehicle safety, exists in an item of motor vehicle equipment listed below, and is furnishing notification to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration in accordance with 49 CFR Part 573 Defect and Noncompliance Reports.

The manufacturer of the component to be recalled is Dexter Axle, located at 2900 Industrial Parkway East., Elkhart, IN 46516. Their Safety Recall Campaign Number is 11E-057. We have been in contact with Dexter Axle and are supplying them with a list of trailers and owner information. Dexter Axle is conducting the recall on the units installed in our trailers and are supplying us with information as to what units have been replaced. A total five (5) units were identified as being sold to Featherlite and potentially having the recalled units.

The contact at Featherlite, Inc. for Featherlite's recall of this component is:

Bruce A. McConnell, Customer Service Manager  
Featherlite, Inc.  
P.O. Box 320  
Cresco, IA 52136-0320  
Phone: 319-547-6000, ext. 1052  
Fax: 319-547-6100  
e-mail: [bmccconnell@fthr.com](mailto:bmccconnell@fthr.com)

Further information, as required, is included in the attachments to this notification.

Sincerely,

Bruce A. McConnell  
Customer Service Manager

**CORPORATE OFFICE**

563.547.6000      fax: 563.547.6099      Hwy. 63 & 9, P.O. Box 320  
toll free: 800.800.1230      www.fthr.com      Cresco, IA 52136

## **Dexter Axle Recall of electric/hydraulic brake actuators**

### **I. Identification of Recalled Items**

*Generic name of item:* Dexter Axle  
*Description:* Electric/hydraulic pumps  
*Part numbers:* EH 1000 & 1600  
*Function:* Braking on trailer

### **II. Identifying the Recall Population**

*Item:* Dexter Axle electric hydraulic brake actuators

*Total number. Potentially involved:* 5

*Estimated percentage containing the defect:* 60%

*How was recall determined:* Notification by Dexter Axle

*Beginning and final dates recalled items were used in manufacture:* 09/21/11 to 12/5/11

### **III. Describe Defect or Noncompliance**

*Describe defect:* The affected units has a hydraulic pump that had not been properly heat treated.

*Describe cause of defect:* Improper heat treating of the pumps by Dexter Axle's supplier.

*Describe consequence of defect condition:* This can cause premature wear of some critical components in these pumps which can render the unit inoperable which can cause a loss of braking effort by the trailer.

*Identity of supplier who furnished the component and CEO name:*

Dexter Axle  
2900 Industrial Parkway East  
Elkhart, IN 46516  
Mr. Adam Dexter , CEO

### **IV. Chronology in Determining the Defect**

Featherlite was notified by Email by Dexter Axle on December 21, 2011 of the defect in the electric/hydraulic pumps. The email went to Doug Smith, purchasing agent for Featherlite Trailers. Our Quality Control Manager identified the units and action was taken. Two units were sent back to Dexter, two were identified as not being in the affected serial number range. The last unit is on a customer's trailer that Dexter Axle has sent a replacement electric/hydraulic actuator but has not been installed.

**V. Identify the Remedy**

The remedy for the defect is to replace the electric/hydraulic actuator

**VI. Identify the Recall Schedule**

Initial notification to retail purchasers and registered owners was December 21, 2011

Dexter Axle is conducting the actual recall.

**VII. Furnish Recall Communications**

Drafts of the notification documents are attached.