

Safety Defect and Noncompliance Report Guide for Equipment  
**PART 573 Defect and Noncompliance Report**

On May 21, 2013, Yakima Products, Inc. decided that a defect which relates to motor vehicle safety exists in items 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**.

Date this report was prepared: May 21, 2013

Furnish the manufacturer's identification code for this recall (if applicable):

1. Identify the full corporate name of the fabricating manufacturer/brand name/trademark owner of the recalled item of equipment. If the recalled item of equipment is imported, provide the name and mailing address of the designated agent as prescribed by 49 U.S.C. §30164.

Yakima Products, Inc.  
15025 SW Koll Parkway  
Beaverton, OR. 97006

Identify the corporate official, by name and title, whom the agency should contact with respect to this recall.

Russ Jacobsen  
Director, Sustaining & Implementation

Yakima Products  
15025 SW Koll Parkway  
Beaverton, OR 97006

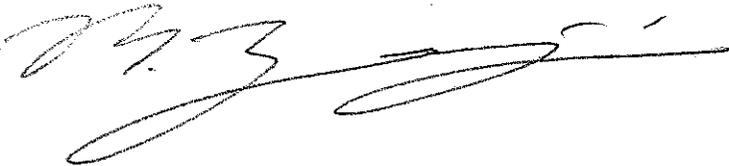
Telephone Number: 971-249-7503

Fax No.: 971-249-7751

Name and Title of Person who prepared this report.

Michael Zoormajian  
Product Manager

Signed:



<sup>1</sup> Each manufacturer must furnish a report, to the Associate Administrator for Enforcement, for each defect or noncompliance condition which relates to motor vehicle safety.

This guide was developed from 49 CFR Part 573, "Defect and Noncompliance Reports" and also outlines information currently requested. Any questions, please consult the complete Part 573 or contact Mr. George Person at (202) 366-5210, by FAX at (202) 366-7882, or E-Mail to RMD.ODI@dot.gov.

## I. Identify the Recalled Items of Equipment

**2. Identify the Items of Equipment Involved in this Recall, for each make and model or applicable item of equipment product line (provide illustrations or photographs as necessary to describe the item of equipment), provide:**

Whispbar rack systems use common mounting towers to hold the crossbars. Special brackets are made that are unique to each vehicle. It is these brackets that have been found to be suspect.



**Generic name of the item:** Fitting Kit for roof rack crossbars

**Make:** Yakima - Whispbar

<b>Part Number:</b>	<b>Model:</b>	<b>Released:</b>	<b>Qty Sold to Date:</b>
8051558	K558	5/24/2011	90
8051393	K393	5/24/2011	322
8051421	K421	5/24/2011	296
8051491	K491	5/24/2011	217
8051422	K422	5/24/2011	141
8051543	K543	5/24/2011	87
8051508	K508	5/24/2011	34
8051480	K480	5/24/2011	182

These Fitting Kits are for Infiniti G-sedans (07-13), Toyota Matrix (2009-2013), Audi Q7, A3/A4/A6 Wagons, Kia Sportage and Mitsubishi Outlander Sport.

**Size:** One system

**Function:** Allows Whispbar Crossbars to fit on specific vehicle roof.

**Other information which characterizes/distinguishes the items of equipment to be recalled:**

A total of 1,369 units were sold from release to April of 2013..

**Identify the approximate percentage of the production of all the recalled models manufactured by your company between the inclusive dates of manufacture provided above, that the recalled model population represents. For example, if the recall involved Equipment equipped with certain items of equipment from January 1, 1996, through April 1, 1997, then what was the percentage of the recalled Equipment of all Equipment manufactured during that time period.**

## II. Identifying the Recall Population

**3. Furnish the total number of items of equipment recalled potentially containing the defect or noncompliance.**

**Total Number Potentially Affected by the Recall:** 1,369

**4. Furnish the approximate percentage of the total number of items of equipment estimated to actually contain the defect or noncompliance:** 100%

**Identify and describe how the recall population was determined--in particular how the recalled models were selected and the basis for the beginning and final dates of manufacture of the recalled items of equipment:**

From release date until stop date 1,369 units were sold.

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

**5. Describe the defect or noncompliance. The description should address the nature and physical location of the defect or noncompliance. Illustrations should be provided as appropriate.**

These fitting kits do not properly attach to the roofline or raised rail in the manner in which they were intended.

**Describe the cause(s) of the defect or noncompliance condition.**

Product was designed prior to the merger with our company, Yakima Products, Inc. Product designed was found to not properly fit the shape of the vehicle features.

**Describe the consequence(s) of the defect or noncompliance condition.**

- Vehicle roof rack could separate from vehicle.

**Identify any warning which can (a) precede or (b) occur.**

- 1) The rack will be loose during the safety checks required in the installation instructions
- 2) The rack could rattle and shake when vehicle is in motion, which could alarm the driver and/or passengers.

**If the defect or noncompliance is in a component or assembly purchased from a supplier, identify the supplier by corporate name and address.**

Kemflo International, Ltd  
No. 19 Aitao Road  
Jiangning Development Zone  
Nanjing, 211106 China

**Identify the name and title of the chief executive officer or knowledgeable representative of the supplier:**  
CS Lin - President

**IV. Provide the Chronology in Determining the Defect/Noncompliance**

*If the recall is for a defect, complete item 6, otherwise item 7.*

**6. With respect to a defect, furnish a chronological summary (including dates) of all the principle events that were the basis for the determination of the defect. The summary should include, but not be limited to, the number of reports, accidents, injuries, fatalities, and warranty claims.**

Our Customer Service department received a claim in March of 2013 where a rack had separated from the vehicle. This prompted Yakima to take affirmative action to request samples and test all similar kits. The affected fitting kits did not pass our internal testing standards.

No accidents or injuries have been reported.

**7. With respect to a noncompliance, identify and provide the test results or other data (in chronological order and including dates) on which the noncompliance was determined.**

As bicycle season has been ramping up this past month (May-April, 2013), we experienced 5 ejection claims, causing us to initiate this recall.

**V. Identify the Remedy**

**8. Furnish a description of the manufacturer's remedy for the defect or noncompliance. Clearly describe the differences between the recall condition and the remedy.**

There is no replacement part at this time. We are asking consumers and dealer to return parts to Yakima for a full refund.

**Clearly describe the distinguishing characteristics of the remedy component/assembly versus the recalled component/assembly.**

Parts are identified by their part numbers.

**Identify and describe how and when the recall condition was corrected in production. If the production remedy was identical to the recall remedy in the field, so state. If the product was discontinued, so state.**

Condition is not readily corrected. Production of these parts has been discontinued.

**VI. Identify the Recall Schedule**

**Furnish a schedule or agenda (with specific dates) for notification to other manufacturers, dealers/retailers, and purchasers. Please, identify any foreseeable problems with implementing the recall.**

**May 22, 2013**

- Submit NHTSA notification
- Prepare consumer notifications
- 

**May 22, 2011**

- Submit dealer and consumer letters to NHTSA for approval

**June 1, 2011**

- Independent Sales Rep Notification
- Distribute dealer and consumer letters
- Collect consumer sell-through and contact information
- Publish web page on yakima.com and our dealer website to inform consumers and dealers of the issue

## **VII. Furnish Recall Communications**

**9. Furnish a final copy of all notices, bulletins, and other communications that relate directly to the defect or noncompliance and which are sent to more than one manufacturer, distributor, or purchaser. This includes all communications (including both original and follow-up) concerning this recall from the time your company determines the defect or noncompliance condition on, not just the initial notification. A DRAFT copy of the notification documents should be submitted to this office by Fax (202-366-7882) or by E-Mail (RMD.ODI@dot.gov) for review prior to mailing.**

**Note: These documents are to be submitted separately from those provided in accordance with Part 579.5 requirements.**