

RECEIVED

By Recall Management Division at 11:13 am, Aug 05, 2013



Vermeer
1210 Vermeer Road East
Plant 1 P.O. Box 200
Pella, IA 50219
Phone: (641) 628-3141
vermeer.com

Via Email: RMD.ODI@dot.gov

To: Defects and Recall Information Analysis Division
Associate Administrator for Safety Assurance
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
1200 New Jersey Ave. SE
Washington DC 20590

PART 573 Defect and Noncompliance Report

Report Date: August 5, 2013

On or about July 30, 2013, Vermeer Manufacturing Company, d/b/a Vermeer Corporation, determined that there is a defect which relates to motor vehicle safety with respect to certain motor vehicles listed below, and is furnishing notification to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration in accordance with 49 CFR Part 573 Defect and Noncompliance Reports.

1 Fabricating Manufacturer:

Vermeer Manufacturing Company, d/b/a Vermeer Corporation
1210 Vermeer Road East
Pella, IA 50219

Telephone: 641-628-3141 Fax: 641-621-7739

Contact Name and Title: Lois Slings
Product Liability Risk Manager

Name and Title of Person Who Prepared Report: Thomas Haley
Product Safety Engineering Manager

Signed: Thomas Haley Date: August 5, 2013

I. Identify the Vehicle Models Involved in the Recall

2 Manufacturer's Identification Code: IK00-1851

PART 573 Defect and Noncompliance Report

Report Date: August 5, 2013

3

4 Vehicle Identification:

Make:	Vermeer	Model Years Involved:	2010-2013	
Model(s):	R9x12T			
Production Dates:	Beginning:	1/31/2010	Ending:	7/2/2013
VIN Range:	Beginning:	1VRB533B9A1000101	Ending:	1VRB533B3D1000132
Vehicle Type:	Trailer – Triple axle drilling fluid reclaimer.			

Description which characterizes/distinguishes the recalled vehicles from those model vehicles not included in the recall: The VIN Range includes 32 units. All units except S/N 124 and 129 are included in the recall which are in factory inventory.

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 Widgets equipped with certain items of equipment from January 1, 1996 through April 1, 1997, then what was the percentage of the recalled Widgets of all Widgets manufactured during that time period.

100%

II. Identify the Recall Population

5 Total Number of Vehicles Recalled Potentially containing the defect or noncompliance:

Model	Year	Number of Vehicles Potentially Involved
R9x12T	2010	5
R9x12T	2011	6
R9x12T	2012	7
R9x12T	2013	12

Total Number Potentially Affected by the Recall:

30

6 Approximate percentage of Total Number of Vehicles Estimated to actually contain the defect or noncompliance:

94%

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 vehicles: The specified units were identified from manufacturing and design records maintained by Vermeer Manufacturing Company as all having the same air brake hose and rear frame cross member configuration.

III. Describe the Defect or Noncompliance

7 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.

Model R9x12T drilling fluid reclaimer units, S/N 101-132, are equipped with air brakes. It was determined that manufacturing tolerances may result in interference between the air brake hoses, the air brake chamber fitting and the axle support plate and axle support brace and rear cross member at the rear axle. The air brake hose may become pinched or rub on the axle support plate and support brace during the raising and lowering of the kingpin during machine set up. This could result in damage to the air brake hoses resulting in the loss of air pressure to the air brakes. The air brake chamber fitting may be damaged during the raising of the kingpin during the machine set up.

A copy of a product brochure for Vermeer Model R9x12T (Exhibit A) is attached for your reference.

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

Inadequate design clearance between the air brake line, air brake fitting, the trailer axle support plate and support brace and rear cross member taking into account the axle supplier air brake chamber plate angularity tolerance.

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

Over time, the air brake line could become damaged resulting in loss of air pressure to the air brake system resulting in loss of service brakes or park brake not releasing.

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

- (a) Extended time to energize trailer air brake reservoirs, audible air loss from the system.
- (b) Extended trailer stopping distance, park brakes that intermittently apply or do not release.

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

Not applicable.

Identify the name and title of the chief executive officer or knowledgeable representative of the supplier.

Not applicable.

IV. Provide the Chronology in Determining the Defect/Noncompliance

PART 573 Defect and Noncompliance Report

Report Date: August 5, 2013

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

- 8 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.**

26 JUNE 2013 Production notified Engineering about potential air brake line interference near rear axle on the R9x12T during the manufacturing assembly process.

27 JUNE 2013 Engineering started analysis of the interference. Inspected manufacturing inventory of completed machines to analyze interference.

10 JULY 2013 Engineering analyzed the axle air brake chamber plate weldment tolerances for inconsistencies.

11 JULY 2013 The axle supplier was contacted to obtain tolerances of air brake chamber plate weldment.

15 JULY 2013 Axle supplier requested further details regarding the tolerances of the air brake chamber plate weldment.

17 JULY 2013 Vermeer Engineering sent to supplier details of the R9x12T weldment process regarding the axle air brake chamber weldment tolerances.

23 JULY 2013 Axle supplier responded with revised axle drawing dimensions and tolerances. Vermeer Engineering analyzed information provided.

26 JULY 2013 Vermeer Engineering completed analysis of supplier information. Determined potential interference.

30 JULY 2013 Vermeer Engineering met with Product Safety Engineering to discuss the tolerance issues. Product Safety Engineering determined potential safety hazard.

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.

Not applicable.

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

Inspection will be completed on all units and if proper clearance is not verified, field kit to move rear cross member will be completed.

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

Field repair kit is currently under development.

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.

The shipment of R9x12T drilling fluid reclaimers from the factory have included the new air brake hose routing and rear frame cross-member relocation. The new design has been released to production and is the same design as the field kit modification if inspection requires modification.

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.

TBD: Complete development of field inspection and modification kit, including fabrication of replacement parts and installation instructions.

TBD: Factory will publish Service Bulletin and Kit Instructions to dealers introducing field modification kit via company-to-dealer website.

TBD: Factory will provide listing of affected units in their area to dealers via e-mail

TBD: Factory will notify owners of mandatory field modifications via certified/registered US mail.

VII. Furnish Recall Communications

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) for review prior to mailing.

RECLAIMER

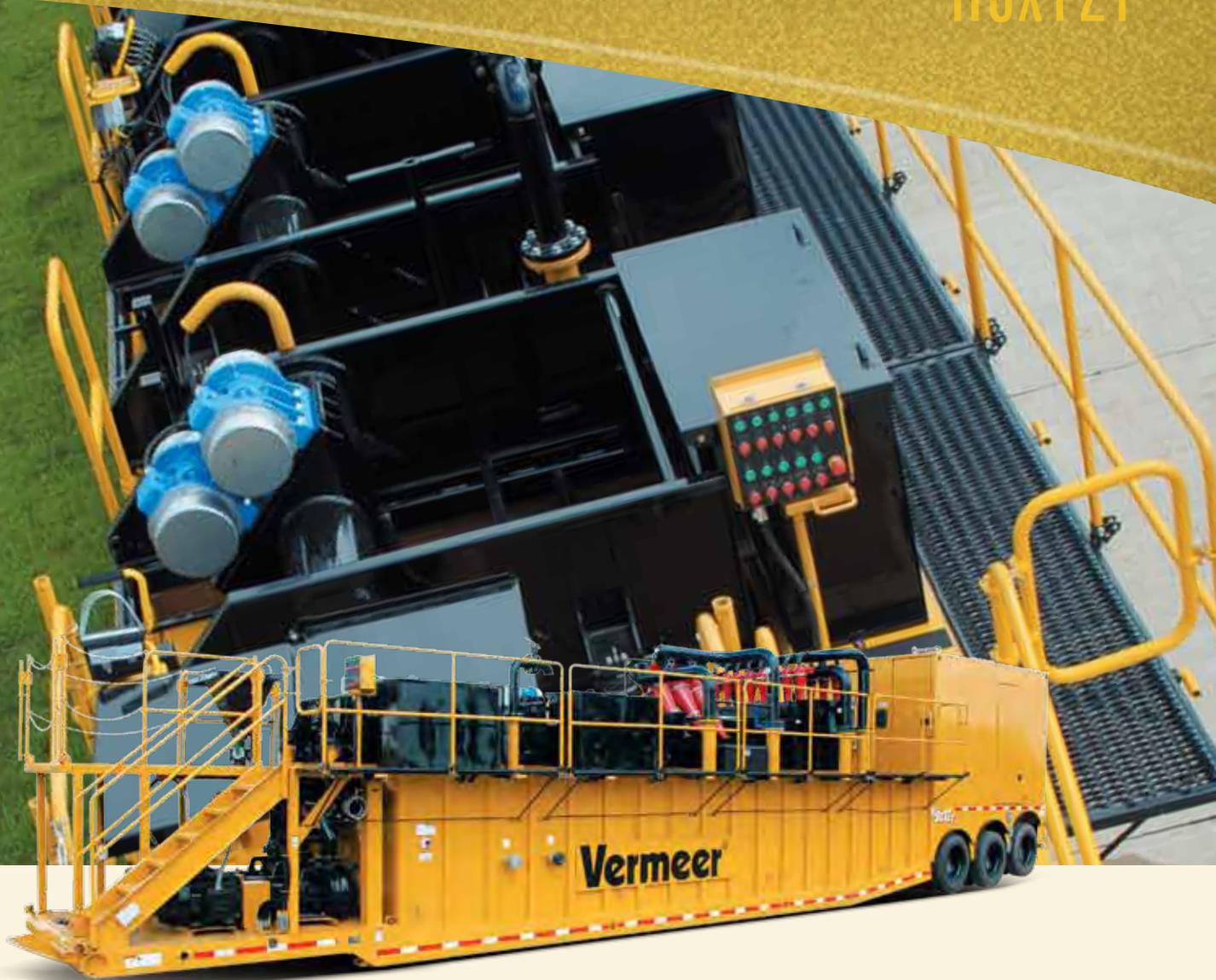
R9x12T



Vermeer®

Vermeer®
EXHIBIT A

R9x12T



WHEN IT COMES TO LARGE-SCALE HDD PIPELINE PROJECTS THAT DEMAND A HIGH FLUID VOLUME, VERMEER HAS THE RECLAIMER SYSTEM TO MEET YOUR PROJECT DEMANDS.



An enclosure helps protect critical components, such as the generator set, fuel tank and electrical equipment, from the elements. The enclosure features two entry points for service access and helps reduce sound levels.



Depending on the drilling conditions, the operator can select either a linear or orbital shaker motion to improve recycling performance.



Spacious working deck offers storage space for pallets or bags on the same level, allowing for more efficient filling of the mix hopper.



An optional isolated venturi nozzle offers simultaneous mixing and recycling within a single system, helping to eliminate the need for an additional on-site drilling fluid mixing system.

EXHIBIT A
RECLAIMER

R9x12T



The importance of an efficient flow of quality drilling fluid is no secret, so the Vermeer R9x12T reclaimer is capable of providing up to 500 gpm (1892.7 L/min) per shaker cleaning capacity (first cut) and a rated desilter capacity of 1200 gpm (4542.5 L/min).



A one-level working deck centralizes access and control to the main system functions, reducing crew member movement. A mix hopper is located on the working deck.



Two independent, hydraulically-controlled jacks lift and lower the front of the system to the operation or transport mode, assisting to bring the system to desired level.



Equipped with telescoping lights for around the clock operations.



Inlet fluid is routed through one of the two pre-screen separation tanks helping reduce premature wear to shaker decks/screens caused by larger material.



Specifications

General Weights and Dimensions

Weight: 57,500 lb (26,081.6 kg)
Length: 53' (16.2 m)
Width: 8.5' (2.6 m)
Height: 13.4' (4.1 m)

Frame

Type: Triple axle trailer
Suspension: Air-ride
Axles: 10 bolt hub-piloted ABS ready
Certifications: DOT lighting & braking

Tank Capabilities

Maximum capacity: 8361 gal (31,649.8 L)
Number of tanks: 3
Clean / mix tank capacity: 3128 gal
(11,840.8 L)

Cleaning System

Shaker type: Linear or orbital
Number of shakers: 4 (2 motors / shaker)
Shaker bed area – each: 26 sq ft (2.4 m²)
Number of screens per shaker: 3
Screen dimension: 25" x 49.25"
(63.5 cm x 125.1 cm)
Cleaning capacity (first cut): Up to 500 gpm/
shaker (1892.7 L/min)
Desander capacity: 1500 gpm (5678.1 L/min)
Desander quantity / size: 3 – 10" Cones
(3 – 25.4 cm)
Desilter capacity: 1280 gpm (4845.3 L/min)
Desilter quantity / size: 16 – 5" Cones
(16 – 12.7 cm)

Generator Set

Make and model: John Deere 6090
Generator: 250 kW standby (480 V, 60 Hz)

Features

Agitator system: 3 – 4.4 hp (3.3 kW)
stainless steel bladed motors
Air compressor: 150 max psi (10.3 bar)
Ancillary electrical system: 120/240 volt circuit for
accessory equipment (heaters, tools, etc.)
Working lights: 4 – 500 W

Performance Specifications

FIRST CUT SHAKERS

Shaker decks 1, 2



DESANDER CONES (3)

Shaker deck 3



DESILTER CONES (16)

Shaker deck 4



THREE SCREENS PER SHAKER

26 sq ft (2.4 m²) per deck