

Safety Defect and Noncompliance Report Guide for *Vehicles*

## PART 573 Defect and Noncompliance Report

Date: 9/26/2013

This report serves as **American Hauler's** notification to the U.S. Department of Transportation, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration that a defect related to motor vehicle safety exists in certain cargo trailers with Flushlock doors. **American Hauler** decided that this defect existed in these vehicles on September 25, 2013.

## I Manufacturer, Designated Agent, and Other Chain of Distribution Information

Manufacturer's corporate name: **American Hauler**Vehicle brand or trademark name owner(s) (where applicable):  
**All Brands with flushlock option added.**

Designated Agent (imported vehicles):

If this notification concerns a defective or noncompliant component that the above identified manufacturer did not manufacture, identify that component and provide the name, address, and phone number of the manufacturer of the component (if this manufacturer is unknown, provide this information as to the supplier of the component):

**Fastec Industrial Corporation**  
**2219 Eddie Williams Rd**  
**Johnson City, TN 37601**

**(800) 837-2505**

Name, address, email, and phone and fax numbers for the person(s) to whom inquiries about this report should be directed:

**Garrick Brown**

**American Hauler  
1520 Mishawaka Street  
Elkhart, IN 46514**

**[gbamhauler@maplenet.net](mailto:gbamhauler@maplenet.net)**

**Phone: 574-264-0227**

**Fax: 574-262-9644**

Manufacturer's assigned campaign number (where applicable):

## II. Identification of the Recall Population and Its Size

Complete the tables below for each group of vehicles subject to this notification. Additional tables may be necessary where there are more than three groups subject to a notification.

Make: **All**

Model: **All**

Model Year(s): **2006 to 2010**

Inclusive dates of manufacture (month and year):

**January 1, 2006 to July 30 2010**

Body Style/Type (for non-passenger cars): **All**

Other information necessary to describe these vehicles (e.g., VIN range, GVWR or class for trucks, displacement for motorcycles, and number of passengers for buses):

**All units where a flushlock option was requested.**

Total number of these vehicles: **1103**

Provide the following information as to all the groups of vehicles:

Grand total number of vehicles: **1103**

The percentage of the recall population you estimate actually contain the defect or noncompliance: **100%**

Identify and describe how the recall population was determined (e.g., on what basis the recalled models were selected and how the inclusive dates of manufacture were determined):

**Fastec was our supplier for flushlocks until June 30, 2010. We determined which units were complete between the range of January 1<sup>st</sup> 2006 and June 30<sup>th</sup> 2010, where a flushlocks had been installed.**

Describe how the recall population is different from any similar vehicles not subject to this notification:

**We only install flushlocks as an option at the customer's request. Units that had no request for installed flushlocks are not subject to this recall.**

### III. Description of the Defect or Noncompliance and Chronology of Events

Describe the defect or noncompliance, including a summary and detailed description of the nature and physical location (if appropriate) of the defect or noncompliance. Graphic aids should be provided where necessary.

**In certain Fastec manufactured flushlocks the key may be able to also be removed from the deadbolt cylinder when the key is in the 9 o'clock position.**

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

**Supplier defect.**

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

**This condition may cause the deadbolt to jam, which could prevent occupants inside the trailer from being able to unlock the door from the inside and exit the trailer through the door.**

Identify any warning(s) that may precede the defect or noncompliance condition.

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*For defects*, provide a dated, chronological summary of all the principle events that were the basis for the determination that the defect is related to motor vehicle safety, including a summary of all warranty claims, field or service reports, and other information such as numbers of crashes, injuries and fatalities.

**We suffered no reports of failure from the flushlock. When notified by NHTSA we became aware of the problem.**

*For noncompliances*, identify the test results and other information considered in determining the existence of the noncompliance, and provide the date of each test and observation indicative of that noncompliance.

#### IV. The Remedy Program and Its Schedule

Describe the program for remedying the defect or noncompliance, including the plan for reimbursing those owners and purchasers who may have incurred costs to remedy the defect or noncompliance before receiving the manufacturer's notification concerning that defect or noncompliance. Also include, where applicable, details with dates concerning any production remedy that was conducted or will be conducted.

Provide the estimated date(s) on which owner and purchaser notifications will be issued and the estimated date(s) for completion of those notifications.

**September 27<sup>th</sup> 2013 – We will mail notifications to our dealer body about the issue. Included with the letter will be the VIN numbers of the units affected by this recall. We will include names and phone numbers from warranty cards that match the VIN, where possible to assist our dealer body in contacting customers.**

Provide the estimated date(s) on which dealer and distributor notifications will be issued and the estimated date(s) for completion of those notifications.

**September 27<sup>th</sup> 2013 – We will mail notifications to our dealer body about the issue. We expect to complete this the same day.**

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

**The deadbolt lock cylinder is replaced by a Fastec supplied cylinder.**

**\*\*\*\*\* IMPORTANT REMINDERS \*\*\*\*\***

A DRAFT version of the letter that the manufacturer intends to mail to owners and purchasers notifying them of the defect and/or noncompliance must be submitted to NHTSA at least five Federal Government business days before those letters are issued. In addition, it is recommended that the draft version of the letter that the manufacturer intends to send to its dealers and distributors concerning the defect and/or noncompliance also be submitted for review. For prompt receipt and review, drafts may be submitted to the attention of the Recall Management Division (NVS-215) via facsimile on (202) 366-7882, or email to RMD.ODI@dot.gov.

A representative 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, dealer, or purchaser, must be submitted to NHTSA no later than five days after they are initially sent. This requirement applies both to the final version of the notification letter that is sent to owners and purchasers, as well as the final version that is sent to dealers and distributors. It also includes any follow-up notifications issued concerning a recall. The representative copies of the letters sent to owners and purchasers, and dealers and distributors, must be submitted via certified mail. It is strongly recommended, however, that additional representative copies be submitted via facsimile on (202) 366-7882, or email to RMD.ODI@dot.gov, so that the submission can be more promptly reviewed. All submissions should be conspicuously labeled with the appropriate NHTSA-assigned recall number.