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14V-398
(7 pages)

Safety Defect and Noncompliance Report Guide for Vehicles

PART 573 Defect and Noncompliance Report

Date: **07/01/2014**

This report serves as **Fontaine Heavy-Haul'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 **2015 Magnitude 100 Trailers**. **Fontaine Heavy-Haul** decided that this defect existed in these vehicles on **06/30/2014**.

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

Manufacturer's corporate name: **Fontaine Commercial Trailer Inc. dba Fontaine Heavy-Haul**

Vehicle brand or trademark name owner(s) (where applicable):

Fontaine Magnitude 100 Model

Designated Agent (imported vehicles):

N/A

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):

The entire trailer is outsourced to a sub-contractor manufacturer.

**Buckner Trailer
100 Industrial Drive
PO Box 590
Springville, Al 35146
Phone 205-467-3903**

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

Greg Benson, Engineering Manager, Dan Hill, Quality Control Manager
Fontaine Heavy-Haul
5398 US Hwy 11
Springville, AL 35146
P: 205-467-1816
F: 205-467-3026
E: gbenson@fontaineheavyhaul.com, dnhill@fontaineheavyhaul.com

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: Fontaine
Model: Magnitude 100
Model Year(s): 2015
Inclusive dates of manufacture (month and year): 1/2014 – 06/2014
Body Style/Type (for non-passenger cars): Lowbed Heavy Haul Trailer
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): Class 8 Semi-Trailer
Total number of these vehicles: 2

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

Grand total number of vehicles: 2

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):

Only 4 trailers were built, 3 were shipped to customers, the defect was found on the 1st unit after field use. This unit has been remedied. The 4th unit is at our factory and has never been shipped to a customer. This unit is scheduled for repair remedies 07/02/14.

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

The recall population is different from similar vehicles not subject to this recall because this type of unit is outsourced to a sub-contractor.

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.

The potentially defective components are located at the front of the trailer bogie axle weldment, the rear of the trailer bogie axle structure, and the rear bogie attachment lugs.

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

The welding in the above referenced locations may be limited to 1 pass welds when Engineering practices require a 3 pass weld.

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

The trailer bogie lugs could potentially become detached from the main structure. This event could potentially allow the trailing three axles to become detached from the original vehicle.

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

Surface cracks in the welds of the vehicle would be indicative of a defective component.

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.

First claim occurred on 06/12/14.

On 06/13/14 this unit was returned for inspection.

On 06/14/14 it was determined that the bogie lugs were improperly welded and areas that require 3 pass welds only had one weld pass.

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.

On 06/20/14 a 4th the unit that was in our inventory was inspected and noted that it was missing weld passes. This unit is being reworked to address this on 07/02/14 .

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.

The Dealer and each owner will be notified of the subject safety recall (pursuant to the included "DRAFT - Owner Notification Letter) by registered mail service.

Each owner will be instructed to contact Fontaine Heavy Haul to schedule service to remedy the defect.

Fontaine, at a minimum, will reimburse the owner for associated freight costs to ship the units to and from the Springville Alabama facility.

On 6/16/14 production remedy to ensure the problems were fixed was initiated.

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

Notifications to issue on or before 07/10/14 and complete 07/10/14, upon approval from NHTSA/ODI.

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

Notifications to issue on or before 07/10/14 and complete 07/10/14, upon approval from NHTSA/ODI.

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

The remedy components will display 3 pass welding in the radial bogie transition and around the bottom lugs and rear transition.

******* 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.