



U.S. Department of Transportation  
**National Highway Traffic Safety  
Administration**

1200 New Jersey Avenue SE  
Washington, DC 20590

July 24, 2015

Ms. Susan Harmon  
Product Safety & Comp Mgr  
Charles Machine Works Inc  
PO Box 66  
Perry, OK 73077

NVS-215KS  
15V-435

**Subject:** Incorrect Wiring Harness may not Activate Brakes

Dear Ms. Harmon:

This letter serves to acknowledge Charles Machine Works Inc's notification to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) of a safety recall which will be conducted pursuant to Federal law for the product(s) listed below. Please review the following information to ensure that it conforms to your records as this information is being made available to the public. If the information does not agree with your records, please contact us immediately to discuss your concerns.

**Makes/Models/Model Years:**

DITCH WITCH/T14MV/2014-2015

**Mfr's Report Date:** July 1, 2015

**NHTSA Campaign Number:** 15V-435

**Components:**

ELECTRICAL SYSTEM: INTEGRATED TRAILER BRAKE CONTROL  
ELECTRICAL SYSTEM: WIRING

**Potential Number of Units Affected:** 69

**Problem Description:**

Charles Machine Works Inc. (Charles Machine) is recalling certain model year 2014-2015 Ditch Witch T14MV trailers manufactured December 1, 2014, to June 22, 2015. The affected trailers may have an incorrect wiring harness that would result in the brakes not applying should the trailer breakaway from the tow vehicle.

**Consequence:**

If the brakes do not activate in the event of a trailer breakaway, there would be an increased risk of a crash.

**Remedy:**

Charles Machine will notify owners, and dealers will correct the pin locations in the trailer harness connector, free of charge. The recall is expected to begin July 17, 2015. Owners may contact Charles Machine customer service at 1-800-654-6481. Charles Machine's number for this recall is ID0388109.

**Notes:**

Owners may also contact the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration Vehicle Safety Hotline at 1-888-327-4236 (TTY 1-800-424-9153), or go to [www.safercar.gov](http://www.safercar.gov).

We have received Charles Machine's proposed owner notification letter and it is currently under review. You will be notified of any changes or concerns once our review is complete.

Charles Machine's Defect Information Report does not list the 2014 model year T14MV model to be included. Please submit a corrected report if it should, in fact, be included.

Please be reminded of the following requirements:

Copies of all notices, bulletins, dealer notifications, and other communications that relate to this recall, including a copy of the final owner notification letter and any subsequent owner follow-up notification letter(s), are required to be submitted to this office no later than 5 days after they are originally sent (if they are sent to more than one manufacturer, distributor, dealer, or purchaser/owner).

Please be reminded that under 49 U.S.C. § 30112(a)(3), it is illegal for a manufacturer, to sell, offer for sale, import, or introduce or deliver into interstate commerce, a motor vehicle or item of motor vehicle equipment that contains a safety defect once the manufacturer has notified NHTSA about that safety defect. This prohibition does not apply once the motor vehicle or motor vehicle equipment has been remedied according to the manufacturer's instructions.

As stated in Part 573.7, submission of the first of six consecutive quarterly status reports is required within one month after the close of the calendar quarter in which notification to purchasers occurs. Therefore, the first quarterly report will be due on, or before, 30 days after the close of the calendar quarter.

Your contact for this recall will be Kelly Schuler who may be reached by phone at (202) 366-5227, or by email at [kelly.schuler@dot.gov](mailto:kelly.schuler@dot.gov) or through the office email at [rmd.odi@dot.gov](mailto:rmd.odi@dot.gov). We look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,



Jennifer Timian  
Chief, Recall Management Division  
Office of Defects Investigations  
Enforcement