



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

1200 New Jersey Avenue SE  
Washington, DC 20590

September 18, 2018

Mr. Timothy Meckstroth  
Vice President of Engineering  
Dexter Axle Company  
2900 Industrial Parkway East  
P.O. Box 250  
Elkhart, IN 46515

NEF-150MR  
18E-087

**Subject:** Missing Bearing Races Causing Hub to Overheat

Dear Mr. Meckstroth:

This letter serves to acknowledge Dexter Axle Company'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:**

DEXTER/D44 TRAILER AXLE/9999

**Mfr's Report Date:** August 28, 2018

**NHTSA Campaign Number:** 18E-087

**Components:**

SUSPENSION:REAR:AXLE:NON-POWERED AXLE ASSEMBLY

**Potential Number of Units Affected:** 9,350

**Problem Description:**

Dexter Axle Company (Dexter) is recalling certain D44 trailer axles with a 4400 pound capacity. These axles may be missing inner bearing races on the hubs, which can cause the bearing to fail or the hub to overheat.

**Consequence:**

The wheel hub may overheat and smoke, increasing the risk of a fire or the bearing may fail, affecting handling and increasing the risk of a crash.

**Remedy:**

Dexter Axle will notify the axle purchasers, and dealers for those vehicle manufacturers will replace the hubs with new hubs, free of charge. The manufacturer has not yet provided a notification schedule. Owners may contact Dexter Axle customer service at 1-574-295-7888.

**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).

Please be reminded of the following requirements:

You are required to submit a draft owner notification letter to this office no less than five days prior to mailing it to the customers. Also, 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.

NHTSA is missing critical, required information for this safety recall. This information must be supplied through the NHTSA Recalls Portal within 5 working days of confirming its accuracy:

- In the case of a defect, a chronology of all principal events that were the basis for the determination that the defect related to motor vehicle safety, including a summary of all warranty claims, field or service reports, and other information, with their dates of receipt (49 CFR 573.6 (c)(6)).
- Your company must supply the estimates date(s) for which it will notify the manufacturers that purchased the affected axles regarding this safety recall. If your company subsequently becomes aware that either the beginning or the completion dates reported to the agency for any of the notifications will be delayed by more than two weeks, your company shall promptly advise the agency of the delay and the reasons therefore, and furnish a revised estimate (49 CFR 573.6 (c)(8)(ii)).

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 Michelle Rice who may be reached by phone at (202) 366-1060, or by email at [michelle.rice@dot.gov](mailto:michelle.rice@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