



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

1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

April 5, 2018

Mr. Rick Conner
President
Conel, LLC dba McElrath Trailers
3375 Chesnee Hwy
Chesnee, SC 29323

NEF-150MR
18V-182

Subject: Trailer Neck Weld May Fail

Dear Mr. Conner:

This letter serves to acknowledge Conel, LLC dba McElrath Trailers'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:

MCELRATH TRAILERS/818I/2013-2018
MCELRATH TRAILERS/VX30-800/2017-2018
MCELRATH TRAILERS/VX50-800/2017-2018

Mfr's Report Date: March 19, 2018

NHTSA Campaign Number: 18V-182

Components:

STRUCTURE

Potential Number of Units Affected: 272

Problem Description:

Conel, LLC dba McElrath Trailers (McElrath Trailers) is recalling certain 2013-2018 818I, 2017-2018 VX50-800, VX30-800, VX50-800LT, and VX30-800LT trailers. A weld on the trailer neck may fail.

Consequence:

Failure of this weld in the neck portion of the trailer could result in instability of the trailer causing a loss of control, increasing the risk of a crash.

Remedy:

The remedy for this recall is still under development. The manufacturer has not yet provided a notification schedule. Owners may contact McElrath Trailers customer service at 1-864-814-2220.

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.

Please provide McElrath's remedy plan once it has been determined.

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).

You are required to provide an estimated date including month, day, and year, when you will send notifications to owners, dealers, and distributors as soon as it becomes available. Please be reminded that it is required that owners be notified of a safety defect in their vehicles within 60 days of a manufacturer's notification to NHTSA of a safety defect in those vehicles.

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 Michelle Rice who may be reached by phone at (202) 366-1060, or by email at michelle.rice@dot.gov or through the office email at rmd.odi@dot.gov. We look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,



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