

Part 573 Safety Recall Report

18V-218

Manufacturer Name : Doepker Industries Ltd.

Submission Date : APR 05, 2018

NHTSA Recall No. : 18V-218

Manufacturer Recall No. : HG201801



Manufacturer Information :

Manufacturer Name : Doepker Industries Ltd.

Address : PO BOX 10
300 Doepker Avenue ANNAHEIM SK
CANADA 00 SOK OGO

Company phone : 306-598-2171

Population :

Number of potentially involved : 25

Estimated percentage with defect : 60 %

Vehicle Information :

Vehicle 1 : 2015-2016 Doepker Industries HG Flatdeck Semi

Vehicle Type : TRAILERS

Body Style :

Power Train : NR

Descriptive Information : Substantial calendar gap between first unit affected and previous build, substantial calendar gap between last unit and next released unit. Work Order Instruction update records.

The affected units are 53' Galvanized Highboy trailers, units affected suffered from thermal cracking in the lower rail (main beam) flanges prior to galvanizing.

Production Dates : JUL 09, 2014 - DEC 08, 2015

VIN Range 1 : Begin : 2DEHGFZ32F1033611 End : 2DEHGFZ34G1035295 Not sequential

Description of Defect :

Description of the Defect : The lower flange(s) of Doepkers 53' Tridem Galvanized Flatdeck could suffer a fatigue failure on one or both main rails.

FMVSS 1 : NR

FMVSS 2 : NR

Description of the Safety Risk : Failure of a main rail could cause the load to shift and spill material onto a road surface causing damage to property and/or severe injury to bystanders.

Description of the Cause : The lower flanges of the units were heated to make them easier to form to the web, the heated flanges were welded to the cold web and as they contracted on cooling thermal stress cracks formed. During the galvanizing process hydrogen was pushed into the crack to create stress corrosion cracking.

Identification of Any Warning that can Occur : The trailer may experience a sudden 'cant' to either side if the rail snaps, or the load may be observed to suddenly deflect on one side, or a loud report like a rifle shot may be heard.

Crack can normally be seen visually prior to fracture, Doepker is recommending a minimum twice daily inspection and removal of the trailer from service if cracks are observed.

Supplier Identification :

Component Manufacturer

Name : NR

Address : NR

NR

Country : NR

Chronology :

March 14th 2018 initial customer contact showing fractured unit, trailer withdrawn from service.

March 14th to 23rd March 2018 Units visually inspected, affected trailers withdrawn from service, rental trailers provided to affected customers

March 22nd 2018 Fractured sections delivered to third party lab for review of failure mechanism, reports still pending

3rd April 2018 Recall initiation with Transport Canada

Description of Remedy :

Description of Remedy Program : Doepker has provided rental trailers to affected companies as short term solution
Doepker will provide a non-destructive test on affected units at no charge to customer on units not yet inspected, customers have been advised to start twice daily checks if unit cannot be withdrawn from service.
Doepker will provide complete replacement frames for affected units, material planning is already in process.

How Remedy Component Differs from Recalled Component : The remedy component will be identical in appearance to the affected unit, but component replacement is planned at Doepker repair facility. The replacement component will be constructed using a flange forming tool that eliminates the flange heating that took place.

Specific part numbers affected are:

V167509 MAIN RAIL, D.S., 53' TRIDEM SLIDER FLATDECK, FOR GALVANIZING

V167510 MAIN RAIL, C.S., 53' TRIDEM SLIDER FLATDECK, FOR GALVANIZING

These are welded into a larger assembly:
V170635 SIDE LAYOUT, 53' TRIDEM SLIDER, CHANNEL, HG, W/ 4 x 2
STAKE POCKETS

Doepker will replace the majority of V170635 for affected units.

Identify How/When Recall Condition
was Corrected in Production :

Work Order Instruction was issued on 30th November 2015 to
immediately cease any heating of flanges at Ontario facility, this was an
unauthorized production process but not specifically forbidden in the
Work Instructions.

Recall Schedule :

Description of Recall Schedule : Dealer and customer notifications are already in process via phone and e-mail, Doepker will be providing written notification shortly.

Planned Dealer Notification Date : APR 11, 2018 - APR 20, 2018

Planned Owner Notification Date : APR 13, 2018 - APR 30, 2018

* NR - Not Reported