

Part 573 Safety Recall Report

19C-003

Manufacturer Name : Merritt Manufacturing Inc

Submission Date : NOV 05, 2019

NHTSA Recall No. : 19C-003

Manufacturer Recall No. : NR



Manufacturer Information :

Manufacturer Name : Merritt Manufacturing Inc

Address : 400 N. Forsythe Street

FRANKLIN IN 46131

Company phone : 317-409-0146

Population :

Number of potentially involved : 216

Estimated percentage with defect : 20 %

Child Restraint Information :

Make 1 : Angel Guard

Model : AngelRide

Seat Type : OTHER

Model No. : N/A

Platform Name / No. : NR

Brand Name : NR

Descriptive Information : During Quality Inspection on October 22, 2019, it was discovered, on some harnesses, that the four row sew (connecting the buckle to the rest of the harness) was not to specification. Specifically, all four rows of the sew must penetrate both pieces of webbing (the main body of webbing and the turn back. It was noted that several units had only two or three rows that were fully penetrating both webbing pieces. Our concern is that there may be harnesses in the field that could only have one row of sew making the connection. We have produced 216 harnesses this year. Previously produced harness were manufactured under different ownership, different facility, and using a box sew, which is large enough to avoid causing a defect. We are including all the harness we made at our new facility in this recall. Remedy harnesses will all have a production date of October 30, 2019, or later. 216 harnesses are involved in the recall.

Production Dates : AUG 08, 2019 - OCT 24, 2019

Description of Defect :

Description of the Defect : During Quality Inspection on October 22, 2019, it was discovered, on some AngelRide harnesses, that the four row sew (connecting the buckle to the rest of the harness) was not to specification. Specifically, all four rows of the sew must penetrate both pieces of webbing (the main body of webbing and the turn back). It was noted that several units had only two or three rows that were fully penetrating both webbing pieces. Our concern is that there may be harnesses in the field that could only have one, or no rows of sew making the connection.

FMVSS 1 : NR

FMVSS 2 : NR

Description of the Safety Risk : If there is a harness in the field with only 1 row of the four row sew (or worse: no sew at all) connecting the buckle to the rest of the harness, then there would be a risk of occupant ejection during a crash.

Description of the Cause : Because the buckle pad is sewn at the same time (same stitching) as the buckle turnback, the sewer did not realize that the turnback was not receiving all four rows of sewing in some instances.

Identification of Any Warning that can Occur : N/A

Supplier Identification :**Component Manufacturer**

Name : Angel Guard Products, Inc.

Address : 400 North Forsythe Street
Franklin INDIANA 46131

Country : United States

Chronology :

During Quality Inspection on October 22, 2019, it was discovered, on some harnesses, that the four row sew (connecting the buckle to the rest of the harness) was not to specification. Specifically, all four rows of the sew must penetrate both pieces of webbing (the main body of webbing and the turn back). It was noted that several units had only two or three rows that were fully penetrating both webbing pieces. Our concern is that there may be harnesses in the field that could only have one (or no) row(s) of sew making the connection. We decided to recall and replace all 216 harnesses manufactured and shipped since 8/8/19 .

Description of Remedy :

Description of Remedy Program : We have shipped 216 AngelRide Car Beds, since being purchased by Merritt Manufacturing, Inc. in 2018. Prior to this production run, all manufacturing was performed at a different location, under different ownership. There was no production at all in 2018; nor for the first 7 months of 2019. The previous owners used a box sew, which was larger, and was not prone to this defect.

Prior to manufacturing the 216 mentioned, there has been no production at this facility. While we believe only the last 50 produced are at risk, we believe it to be prudent to recall all 216 that we have made and shipped. All of our product is sold to institutions, mostly NICUs at hospitals for premature infants. The max occupant weight is nine pounds. Hospitals loan or rent them out to families of premature babies that need them. To go above and beyond sending the recall letters, we are also notifying hospitals of the recall by phone. Much of the product is still sitting on shelves, waiting for patients. We have the contact information for these customers. We are, and will continue, to call them. The replacement harnesses have already been made and inspected. When we call a customer, we will explain the recall to them. We will emphasize that it is a safety recall, and that we will immediately send replacement harnesses for all the car beds they have. We believe it is important to make contact with a point person that we can trust to handle the replacement. We are also sending a paid shipping label for sending the recalled harnesses back to us. We are also going through the reply cards that we have received and sending replacements to those customers. Our goal is to get all 216 recalled harnesses back to our facility. We will continue to make calls and email our customers until that goal is reached.

How Remedy Component Differs from Recalled Component : The remedy harnesses will have a production date of October 30th or later. Recalled harnesses will be all harnesses with production dates between January 1, 2019 and October 22, 2019. Only 216 were produced during this time; and none were shipped prior to August 1st, 2019. AngleRide Harness is the name of the component
7000ARH is the part number
It is the harness for the AngelRide Car Bed.
Identify and describe how and when
The chance of this happening again was eliminated by allowing the "lip" of the buckle turnback webbing to stick out past the buckle pad. This simplifies the manufacturing and inspection processes.

Identify How/When Recall Condition was Corrected in Production : The chance of this happening again was eliminated by allowing the "lip" of the buckle turnback webbing to stick out past the buckle pad. This simplifies the manufacturing and inspection processes.

Recall Schedule :

Description of Recall Schedule : We will be sending recall notifications once we receive our recall

number. We will also be calling and e-mailing customers to get feedback that the defective harnesses have been replaced with the remedy harnesses. We currently have someone dedicated to this project 8 hours a day until completion. We are in the process of notifying the Child Passenger Safety and Transportation of Children with Special Needs List Serves. We are also in the process of preparing a recall notification letter, with remedy instructions, for all of our customers, for your review. While we have set an end date of 11/30/19, we will not stop until we have spoken to every customer involved; and made every attempt to get the recalled harnesses back.

Planned Dealer Notification Date : NOV 05, 2019 - DEC 05, 2019

Planned Owner Notification Date : NOV 05, 2019 - DEC 05, 2019

Purchaser Information :

The following manufacturers purchased this defective/noncompliant equipment for possible use or installation in new motor vehicles or new items of motor vehicle equipment:

Name : NR

Address : NR

NR

Country : NR

Company Phone : NR

* NR - Not Reported