

# Part 573 Safety Recall Report

# 19E-044

**Manufacturer Name :** DLT, LLC  
**Submission Date :** JUL 29, 2019  
**NHTSA Recall No. :** 19E-044  
**Manufacturer Recall No. :** NR

**Manufacturer Information :**

**Manufacturer Name :** DLT, LLC  
**Address :** 7337 SW Tech Center Drive  
 Portland OR 97223  
**Company phone :** 505-6886

**Population :**

**Number of potentially involved :** 740  
**Estimated percentage with defect :** 100 %

**Equipment Information :**

**Brand / Trade 1 :** CravenSpeed  
**Model :** Fiat Short Shifter Shaft  
**Part No. :** CRFA-0017-02  
**Size :** NR  
**Function :** NR

**Descriptive Information :** From December, 2011 to February, 2015, the shafts were machined at one particular machine shop. Some, if not all, of those shafts were machined with a threaded set screw hole running completely through the shaft (rather than a blind hole). 740 of those shafts were sold. Manufacturing ceased from February, 2015, through September, 2017, because further inventory was not required during that time. Manufacturing resumed in September, 2017, and the prints had been updated to require a blind hole. Thus, shafts manufactured after September, 2017, are not in the recall population. 93 of those shafts have been sold. The total number of shafts sold is 833.

**Production Dates :** DEC 01, 2011 - FEB 27, 2015

**Description of Defect :**

**Description of the Defect :** The shaft of our Fiat shifter assembly, manufactured between December 2011 and February 2015, is, in rare cases, subject to breakage at the through hole in the shaft after repeated heavy use.

**FMVSS 1 :** NR

**FMVSS 2 :** NR

**Description of the Safety Risk :** If the shifter breaks while the vehicle is in motion it could lead to an accident.

**Description of the Cause :** The cause of the defect is the use of a through hole for the set screw, which has

less mechanical strength than a shaft with a blind hole.

Identification of Any Warning that can Occur : One customer noted a change in the feel of the shifter before it broke, but DLT is not aware of any specific identifiable warning.

## Supplier Identification :

### Component Manufacturer

Name : NR

Address : NR

NR

Country : NR

## Chronology :

1. Date: 7/28/2017; Yorktown, Virginia. No crash, injury or fatality. Shifter shaft broke while attempting to shift into 5th gear on a highway. Driver was able to drive onto the shoulder. Customer accepted a free replacement shifter. Following the incident, a locally retained metallurgist was hired to inspect the shifter. The metallurgist found that the shaft broke at the point of the through hole, but also found abnormal gouges consistent with hammer strikes or some other form of abuse. The company's testing, including attempts to intentionally break an exemplar shifter in a vice, did not support the reported mechanism of breakage. Based on the customer's overall behavior, DLT believed at the time that the claim was fraudulent.

2. Date: 6/18/2018; Miami, Florida. No crash, injury or fatality. Driver felt unusual shifter movement shifting from 1st to 2nd. Then, shifting into 3rd gear it was clear the shaft had broken. Driver was able to pull over safely. Customer accepted free replacement shifter. An engineer found similar abnormal gouges on the shaft, though not as pronounced as the first incident. Misinstallation was suspected.

3. Date: 9/10/2018; Brunswick, Georgia. No crash, injury or fatality. Three weeks prior, the driver noticed difficulty engaging reverse. One morning, leaving home, the shifter broke when trying to engage second gear. Customer accepted free replacement shifter. As with the second incident, an engineer found similar gouges on the shaft, and misinstallation was again suspected. As a result, instructions for the installation of the shaft were updated to reduce the risk of future incorrect installations.

4. Date: 4/25/2019; Herriman, Utah. No crash, injury or fatality. Driver was waiting at a light and the shifter broke when attempting to put the car into first gear. Customer accepted free replacement shifter. It was not clear whether the same abnormal markings were present, due to the shifter being partially covered in JB Weld.

## Description of Remedy :

Description of Remedy Program : Shifters were sold both directly and through vendors. For direct sales or any customers who have corresponded with DLT following their purchase of the shifter, DLT will contact them via email. DLT will attempt to acquire email contact information from vendors who have purchased Fiat shifters for resale. DLT will also use our advertising channels, primarily vehicle forums, to notify the Fiat owner community of the safety defect and available replacement.

DLT will provide two options for replacement:

- If the customer presents the shaft to DLT, the customer will be provided a free complete shifter assembly with the updated shaft. Upon request, DLT will email the customer a pre-paid return label for the purpose of sending in the shifter. Upon receipt of the shifter, DLT will promptly send a replacement at no charge.
- If for any reason the customer chooses not to present the shaft to DLT without receiving a replacement, the customer may purchase a new shifter. DLT will provide a pre-paid return label for the affected item. Upon receipt of the original shifter, DLT will provide a full refund of the purchase price for the new shifter. There will thus be no resulting cost to the customer.

How Remedy Component Differs from Recalled Component : Name: Fiat Short Shifter Shaft  
Description: Short shifter shaft with a through hole  
Part number: CRFA-0017-02

The distinguishing characteristic is the set screw hole, which used to be drilled completely through the shaft, and now only penetrates partially into the shaft.

Identify How/When Recall Condition was Corrected in Production : When machining resumed in September 2017, prints were updated to require a blind hole. No shifter assembled after that date contains the defect. No further production remedy should be required.

## Recall Schedule :

Description of Recall Schedule : DLT would like to begin notifying customers on July 24th, 2019. DLT would like to notify dealers and distributors as soon as this course of

action has been approved by NHTSA. This will allow the maximum amount of time for acquiring contact information for direct consumers.

Planned Dealer Notification Date : NR - NR

Planned Owner Notification Date : JUL 24, 2019 - NR

### **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