



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

1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

May 22, 2019

Mr. Allen Peacock
VP of Engineering
Fontaine Trailer Company
430 Letson Road
Haleyville, AL 35565

NEF-150MR
19V-302

Subject: Cylinder Retaining Pin May Detach from Trailer

Dear Mr. Peacock:

This letter serves to acknowledge Fontaine Trailer 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:

FONTAINE/TRVERSE HT/2017-2019

Mfr's Report Date: April 15, 2019

NHTSA Campaign Number: 19V-302

Components:

EQUIPMENT

Potential Number of Units Affected: 123

Problem Description:

Fontaine Trailer Company (Fontaine Trailer) is recalling certain 2017-2019 Traverse HT (hydraulic tail) trailers. The hydraulic cylinder retaining pin for the main tail may disconnect from the trailer unexpectedly.

Consequence:

If the hydraulic cylinder retaining pin becomes disconnected it may become a road hazard. Additionally, the hydraulic cylinder may drop free and impact the road, and cause a loss of vehicle control. Either condition increases the risk of a crash.

Remedy:

Fontaine Trailer will notify owners and dealers will replace the hydraulic cylinder retaining pin snap rings for cotter pins, free of charge. The manufacturer has not yet provided a notification schedule. Owners may contact Fontaine Trailer customer service at 1-877-345-9526.

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 amend your filing to clarify what the safety risk is of the cylinder pin detachment.

Your company must supply the estimated date(s) for which it will notify owners 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)).

Your company must supply the estimated date(s) for which it will notify dealers and/or distributors 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)).

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 Fontaine Trailer'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. We look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,



Kareem Habib
Acting Chief, Recall Management Division
Office of Defects Investigations
Enforcement