



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

1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

July 22, 2019

Ms. Susan Harmon
Product Safety & Comp Mgr
Charles Machine Works Inc
PO Box 66
Perry, OK 73077

NEF-150MR
19V-490

Subject: Lock Nuts may Allow Trailer Hitch to Disconnect

Dear Ms. Harmon:

This letter serves to acknowledge Charles Machine Works Inc'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:

CHARLES MACHINE/DITCH WITCH/2018-2019

Mfr's Report Date: June 25, 2019

NHTSA Campaign Number: 19V-490

Components:

TRAILER HITCHES

Potential Number of Units Affected: 290

Problem Description:

Charles Machine Works Inc (Charles Machine) is recalling certain 2018 Ditch Witch VT17, 2018-2019 VT20 and VT24 trailers. The lock nuts that attach the hitch to the trailer may be insufficient to clamp the load after the hitch height has been adjusted.

Consequence:

Without a sufficient clamp load, the hitch may unexpectedly detach from the trailer, increasing the risk of a crash.

Remedy:

Charles Machine has notified owners, and will provide new hardware, free of charge. The recall began June 28, 2019. Owners may contact Charles Machine customer service at 1-800-654-6481. Charles Machine's number for this recall is ID0568989.

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 Defect Information report, in the "How Remedy Component Differs from Recalled Component" section, to provide the part numbers and descriptions of the incorrect hitch hardware.

NHTSA is missing critical, required information for this safety recall. This information must be supplied through the NHTSA Recalls Portal within 5 working days of confirming its accuracy:

- A statement that the defect or noncompliance can cause a vehicle crash. (49 CFR 577.5 (f)(1)).

Please be reminded of the following requirements:

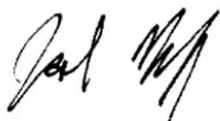
Copies of all notices, bulletins, dealer notifications, and other communications that relate to this recall are required to be submitted to this office no later than 5 days after they are originally sent (if they are sent to more than one manufacturer, distributor, dealer, or purchaser/owner).

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 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. We look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,



Joshua Neff
Chief, Recall Management Division
Office of Defects Investigations
Enforcement