

Part 573 Safety Recall Report

20E-062

Manufacturer Name : Harbor Freight Tools

Submission Date : SEP 01, 2020

NHTSA Recall No. : 20E-062

Manufacturer Recall No. : NR



Manufacturer Information :

Manufacturer Name : Harbor Freight Tools

Address : 26541 Agoura Road

Calabasas CA 91302

Company phone : 836 5000

Population :

Number of potentially involved : 22,050

Estimated percentage with defect : 100 %

Equipment Information :

Brand / Trade 1 : Pittsburgh Automotive

Model : A/C R134A Manifold Gauge Set

Part No. : 62707

Size : NR

Function : NR

Descriptive Information : Ongoing analysis of customer feedback and review of online social media content raised a potential safety issue on certain Pittsburgh Automotive A/C Manifold Gauge Sets manufactured by Zhuji Gaode Machinery Co Ltd. It was determined that units in certain production batches had high pressure and low pressure manifold and coupler valve labels erroneously interchanged on their knobs during the factory labeling process – with reversed instructions as to how to open or close the valves. We will provide notice to customers who purchased units between May 22, 2020 and August 11, 2020 and if the customer purchased a unit within the affected production date range, we will provide replacement labels for the manifold and coupler knobs.

Production Dates : MAR 23, 2020 - MAY 17, 2020

Description of Defect :

Description of the Defect : For units made in certain isolated production batches, the high pressure and low pressure manifold and coupler valve labels may be erroneously reversed.

FMVSS 1 : NR

FMVSS 2 : NR

Description of the Safety Risk : For units with the high pressure and low pressure manifold and coupler valve labels reversed, the markings showing which direction the valve is to be turned (either open or closed) is incorrect; and refrigerant leaks, A/C system contamination, and expulsion of pressurized refrigerant may occur.

Instructions in the manual are correct.

Description of the Cause : During production, the manufacturing process that controls the labeling became inconsistent and produced units with labels that were erroneously interchanged.

Identification of Any Warning that can Occur : On units with a labeling error, an incident affecting safety could happen without any warning if the manifold or coupler is opened when it is intended to be closed and is attached to an automobile air-conditioning system and/ or a refrigerant service unit.

Involved Components :

Component Name : NR

Component Description : NR

Component Part Number : NR

Supplier Identification :

Component Manufacturer

Name : Zhuji Gaode Machinery Co Ltd

Address : Ciwu Industrial Area
Zhuji FOREIGN STATES 311800

Country : China

Chronology :

Ongoing analysis of customer feedback and review of online social media content raised a potential safety issue on certain Pittsburgh Automotive A/C Manifold Gauge Sets manufactured by Zhuji Gaode Machinery Co Ltd. on August 4, 2020. HFT initiated an investigation of the Automotive A/C Manifold Gauge Sets as manufactured, and performed Quality Assurance reviews of product. The test results indicated that certain isolated units of Automotive A/C Manifold Gauge Sets did not meet the labeling requirements. On August 25, 2020, Harbor Freight Tools decided to conduct a recall with replacement labels to address this issue with certain isolated production batch units of Pittsburgh Automotive A/C Manifold Gauge Sets identified as SKU 62707 and manufactured by Zhuji Gaode Machinery Co Ltd.

Description of Remedy :

Description of Remedy Program : Customers who purchased the Pittsburgh Automotive A/C R134A Manifold Gauge Sets after May 22, 2020 and their units were produced between March 23, 2020 and May 17, 2020, will be sent new replacement labels with instructions to correctly apply them over the original labels.

How Remedy Component Differs from Recalled Component : All SKU 62707 Pittsburgh Automotive A/C R134A Manifold Gauge Sets manufactured by Zhuji Gaode Machinery Co Ltd. are mechanically undamaged; it is only the placement of the labels on the manifold and coupler knobs that is incorrect. All distribution center and retail store units have already been removed from inventory, and will be re-worked with replacement labels. The labels clearly indicate direction of valve function, and whether the label should be on the manifold or on the coupler. If a label is on the coupler valve and states "manifold" it is incorrect; if a label is on the manifold valve and states "coupler" it is incorrect.

Identify How/When Recall Condition was Corrected in Production : Once the recall condition was identified, incorrect labeling was immediately discontinued, and a heightened quality control process was put into place to ensure correct labeling for new units manufactured and shipped.

Recall Schedule :

Description of Recall Schedule : Postal Mail Customer Letters and E-mail Customer Letters will be transmitted, store Recall posters will be publicly displayed, and Social Media postings will be broadcast, all within the compliance period.

Planned Dealer Notification Date : NR - NR

Planned Owner Notification Date : NR - 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