

# Part 573 Safety Recall Report

# 21E-007

**Manufacturer Name :** Howmet Aerospace

**Submission Date :** FEB 16, 2021

**NHTSA Recall No. :** 21E-007

**Manufacturer Recall No. :** NR



## Manufacturer Information :

**Manufacturer Name :** Howmet Aerospace

**Address :** 150 W. Jefferson Ave.

Suite 2500 Detroit MI 48236

**Company phone :** 3134968479

## Population :

**Number of potentially involved :** 22

**Estimated percentage with defect :** 50 %

## Equipment Information :

**Brand / Trade 1 :** Alcoa

**Model :** High Polish Aluminum wheel

**Part No. :** ULT 397

**Size :** 22.5 x 8.25

**Function :** Truck wheel

**Descriptive Information :** The recall population was determined by a review of manufacturing records, which revealed two (2) batches with eleven (11) wheels each. Only one batch had thermal processing irregularities. HWS retrieved nineteen (19) of the twenty-two (22) total wheels. Of the 19 wheels in HWS's possession, HSW has eight (8) of the eleven (11) affected wheels. The three (3) remaining affected wheels are ULT 397 only. HSW has already retrieved all ULT 391 affected wheels. Only three (3) ULT 397 with bar code heat label of H6HW67 (located on the OD drop center of the wheel with tire removed) remain outstanding.

**Production Dates :** NOV 22, 2020 - NOV 22, 2020

## Description of Defect :

**Description of the Defect :** Under certain circumstances, the wheels may bend or break while in use.

**FMVSS 1 :** NR

**FMVSS 2 :** NR

**Description of the Safety Risk :** Bent or broken wheels may increase the risk of a crash.

**Description of the Cause :** Thermal process irregularities in the form of delayed quench (cooling) post-heating process resulted in 11 weakened wheels.

**Identification of Any Warning that can Occur :** The wheel may bend or the mounted tire on the wheel could lose air causing the tire to go flat.

**Involved Components :**

Component Name : NR

Component Description : NR

Component Part Number : NR

**Supplier Identification :****Component Manufacturer**

Name : Howmet Aerospace Inc. obo Howmet Wheels

Address : 1616 Harvard Ave.  
Cleveland Ohio 44105

Country : United States

**Chronology :**

January 6, 2021: One customer reported wheel failure on the assembly line. There have been no accidents, injuries or deaths reported. Howmet Wheel Systems ("HWS") identifies the failure is limited to one batch of wheels.

January 7, 2021: HWS advises NHTSA of the defect and requests advice on how to proceed. NHTSA advised that HWS should follow the requirements of 49 CFR sec. 579. HWS submits a EWR.

January 8, 2021: NHTSA advises that because there was no death or injury, Part 579 is not applicable and that someone else will contact HWS and provide further guidance.

January 6-12, 2021: HWS contacts its customers, both verbally and in writing, to retrieve any remaining wheels.

January 27, 2021: Having not heard back from NHTSA, HWS retains outside counsel.

January 6-present, 2021: HWS works diligently to retrieve the affected wheels. HWS successfully retrieves all but 3 wheels. HWS retrieve all ULT 391 affected wheels. The remaining 3 wheels are all ULT 397 with bar code heat label of H6HW67 (located on the OD drop center of the wheel).

**Description of Remedy :**

Description of Remedy Program : At no cost to the customer, replace the subject wheels with wheels of sufficient strength.

**How Remedy Component Differs from Recalled Component :** The replacement wheels will be of sufficient strength and durability to withstand the load.

**Identify How/When Recall Condition was Corrected in Production :** This was an isolated incident involving delayed quench. There will be no delay in quenching (cooling) the wheels post-heating. Internal corrective actions have been implemented to prevent re-occurrence.

### Recall Schedule :

**Description of Recall Schedule :** HWS notified all customers on January 11 and 12, 2021. HWS instituted a voluntary recall on January 7, 2021 and only 3 wheels remain outstanding. The 3 wheels outstanding are all ULT 397 with bar code heat label of H6HW67 (located on the OD drop center of the wheel with tire removed).

**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