



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

1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

March 19, 2021

Mr. Timothy Meckstroth
Vice President of Engineering
Dexter Axle Company
2900 Industrial Parkway East
P.O. Box 250
Elkhart, IN 46515

NEF-107KL
21E-019

Subject: Steering Arm May Detach

Dear Mr. Meckstroth:

This letter serves to acknowledge Dexter Axle 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:

INGERSOLL/SMART-STEER/9999

Mfr's Report Date: March 15, 2021

NHTSA Campaign Number: 21E-019

Components:

STEERING

STEERING:LINKAGES:KNUCKLE:SPINDLE:ARM

Potential Number of Units Affected: 1,238

Problem Description:

Dexter Axle Company (Dexter Axle) is recalling certain Ingersoll Smart-Steer self steer axles. The steering arm may detach from the steering knuckle during certain low-speed, high-side loading maneuvers.

Consequence:

A detached steering arm may cause a loss of steering control. In addition, attachment hardware may fall and become a road hazard. Both of these scenarios can increase the risk of a crash.

Remedy:

Dexter Axle will notify owners, and dealers will replace the axle with one that has reinforced welds, free of charge. The manufacturer has not yet provided a schedule for recall notification. Owners may contact Dexter Axle customer service at 1-574-295-7888.

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.

The information in your report suggests that Dexter Axle may have been aware of this issue more than five business days before filing a report with NHTSA. Please be reminded that under Federal law, this agency is to be notified of all safety defect and/or noncompliance decisions within five business days. 49 CFR 573.6 Significant civil penalties can be assessed for this violation.

Please ensure the following requirements are met:

In the case of items of motor vehicle equipment, the manufacturer of the equipment shall identify by name, business address, and business telephone number every manufacturer that purchases the defective or noncomplying component for use or installation in new motor vehicles or new items of motor vehicle equipment (49 CFR 573.6 (c)(2)(v)).

AMENDED 573 REQUIRED.

An identification and description of the risk to motor vehicle safety reasonably related to the defect or noncompliance (49 CFR 573.6 (c)(5)). All filings should state an increased risk of either a crash, injury or fire.

AMENDED 573 REQUIRED.

Your company must supply the estimated date(s) for which it will notify owners regarding this safety recall. Please be reminded that all owners must be notified of the safety risk associated with this filing within 60 days of the 573 being submitted. If the remedy is not available at that time, mail the interim notice, following it with a second notice once the remedy becomes available. 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 therefor, and furnish a revised estimate. If there are no owners involved in this recall, please state so in the 573 (49 CFR 573.6 (c)(8)(ii)).

AMENDED 573 REQUIRED.

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 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.

Dexter Axle Company's contact for this recall will be Kristin Lepper who may be reached by email at kristin.lepper@dot.gov. We look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Alex Ansley", with a long, sweeping flourish extending from the end.

Alex Ansley
Chief, Recall Management Division
Office of Defects Investigation
Enforcement