

Part 573 Safety Recall Report

21E-019

Manufacturer Name : Dexter Axle Company

Submission Date : MAY 14, 2021

NHTSA Recall No. : 21E-019

Manufacturer Recall No. : NR



Manufacturer Information :

Manufacturer Name : Dexter Axle Company

Address : 2900 INDUSTRIAL PARKWAY EAST
PO BOX 250 ELKHART IN 46516

Company phone : 574-295-7888

Population :

Number of potentially involved : 1,238

Estimated percentage with defect : 100 %

Equipment Information :

Brand / Trade 1 : Ingersoll

Model : Smart-Steer

Part No. : See Attached List

Size : 25,000 Pound

Function : Self Steer Axle

Descriptive Information :

- All Smart-Steer axles with 8 7/8 bolt on steer arm, sold in the US between May 5, 2017 and December 4, 2019. These units had no reinforcement weld. All units sold after that time had reinforcement welds, which corrected the issues.
- Units included in this recall had the 8-7/8 inch, bolt on steer arm, with no reinforcement weld.
- There are 1238 axles sold in the United States that are of this make/model combination, that were built during this time frame.

Production Dates : MAY 05, 2017 - DEC 04, 2019

Description of Defect :

Description of the Defect : In certain low speed loading scenarios, the side loads generated on the steer axles may be enough to fail the attaching hardware. The steering arm may become detached from the steering knuckle.

FMVSS 1 : NR

FMVSS 2 : NR

Description of the Safety Risk : There is a potential for pieces of attachment hardware to separate and fall onto the road which may result in a loose projectile increasing the potential risk for a crash. There is no loss of control of the unit when this failure occurs.

Description of the Cause : The cause is lack of strength in the attachment of the steering arm to the

knuckle for some low speed, high side load maneuvers that some of the trailers are performing.

Identification of Any Warning that can Occur : Independent castering of steer axle wheels and noise from dragging parts,.

Involved Components :

Component Name : Steering Knuckle Assembly

Component Description : Steering Knuckle Assembly

Component Part Number : N/A

Supplier Identification :

Component Manufacturer

Name : NR

Address : NR

NR

Country : NR

Chronology :

After receiving customer complaints / warranty claims for failed steering knuckle assemblies, a service bulletin was issued in October of 2019 to reinforce the assembly in the area where the steering arm attaches to the knuckle.

After additional testing, an updated service bulleting was issued on December 4, 2019, requiring 2 welds to reinforce the bolted joint, described above.

Since this time, all future steering axles have been manufactured with the 2 welds as described above.

Recently it has been determined that, left unrepaired, there is a possibility that a failure may possibly leave debris on the road. The decision was made to filed a formal recall.

During this time period we have continued to campaign for repair, all axles that do not have the two additional welds.

Description of Remedy :

Description of Remedy Program : The Ingersoll Division of Dexter will provide up to 3 hours of labor and replacement parts necessary to remedy units. This work will be performed at approved repair facilities' in accordance with the December 4, 2019 Service Bulletin.

How Remedy Component Differs from Recalled Component : The remedy components will have dual, augmenting welds, connecting the steering arm to the steering knuckle, in accordance with the December 4, 2019 Service Bulletin.

Identify How/When Recall Condition was Corrected in Production : The condition was corrected in production on Dec 4, 2019. The dual augmenting welds were applied by the OE before the steering axles were shipped to the customer.

Recall Schedule :

Description of Recall Schedule : We are drafting a recall letter and plan to send it out by the end of March. However, all of our customers have been previously notified through service bulletins and the campaign is ongoing.

Planned Dealer Notification Date : MAR 31, 2021 - APR 30, 2021

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