



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

1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

August 27, 2021

Mr. Blane Wirth
President
Rigid Hitch Inc.
3301 West Burnsville Parkway
Burnsville, MN 55337

NEF-107KL
21E-079

Subject: Incorrect Temperature Setting for Weld

Dear Mr. Wirth:

This letter serves to acknowledge Rigid Hitch 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:
RIGID HITCH/TOW BAR/9999

Mfr's Report Date: August 25, 2021

NHTSA Campaign Number: 21E-079

Components:
STRUCTURE:BODY:TAILGATE:HINGE AND ATTACHMENTS

Potential Number of Units Affected: 80

Problem Description:
Rigid Hitch, Inc. (Rigid Hitch) is recalling certain DHB-4 4" Drop, DHB-6 6" Drop or 6" Rise, DHB-10 10" Drop/10" Rise, and DHB-8 8" Drop/8" Rise tow hitches. The torch angle or temperature setting used to apply the weld may have been incorrect.

Consequence:
Incorrect torch angle or weld temperature setting could cause the weld to fail, causing loss of control, increasing the risk of a crash.

Remedy:
Rigid Hitch will provide a full reimbursement for all returned units, free of charge. Owner notification letters are expected to be mailed September 2, 2021. Owners may contact Rigid Hitch customer service at 1-952-895-5001.

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.nhtsa.gov.

Please ensure the following requirements are met:

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.

We have received Rigid Hitch's proposed owner notification letter and it is currently under review. You will be notified of any changes or concerns once our review is complete.

Please be reminded of the following requirements:

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.

Rigid Hitch Inc.'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,



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