



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

1200 New Jersey Avenue SE  
Washington, DC 20590

March 23, 2021

Ms. Susan Harmon  
Product Safety & Comp Mgr  
Charles Machine Works, Inc.  
PO Box 66  
Perry, OK 73077

NEF-107MR  
21V-177

**Subject:** Missing Side Reflex Reflectors/FMVSS 108

Dear Ms. Harmon:

This letter serves to acknowledge Charles Machine Works, 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:**

DITCH WITCH/025-1020/2015-2021  
DITCH WITCH/745-7900/2015  
DITCH WITCH/S4S/2008-2020  
DITCH WITCH/ZS6S/2009-2019  
DITCH WITCH/ZS6S-1/2010

**Mfr's Report Date:** March 15, 2021

**NHTSA Campaign Number:** 21V-177

**Components:**

EXTERIOR LIGHTING

**Potential Number of Units Affected:** 456

**Problem Description:**

Charles Machine Works, Inc. (Charles Machine) is recalling certain 2008-2020 Ditch Witch S4S, 2015-2021 Ditch Witch 025-1020, 2015 Ditch Witch 745-7900, 2009-2019 Ditch Witch ZS6S, and 2010 Ditch Witch ZS6S-1 trailers designed for carrying the FX20 vacuum excavator. The trailers may be missing side reflex reflectors near the front of the trailer. As such, these trailers fail to comply with the requirements of Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard (FMVSS) number 108, "Lamps, Reflective Devices, and Associated Equipment."

**Consequence:**

Without the proper reflective equipment, the vacuum excavator trailer may have reduced visibility to other drivers, increasing the risk of a crash.

**Remedy:**

Charles Machine will notify owners, and dealers will inspect for side reflex reflectors, and add them as necessary, free of charge. The manufacturer has not yet provided a schedule for recall notification. Owners may contact Charles Machine customer service at 1-800-654-6481.

**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](http://www.safercar.gov).

**Please ensure the following requirements are met:**

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.**

Per the requirements of 49 USC 30119, please provide the part number, name and description of the component or components involved in this recall. This information should be provided in an amended 573 in the "Involved Components" section.

**AMENDED 573 REQUIRED.**

We have received Charles Machine's proposed owner notification letter and have approved it for distribution.

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).

Under 49 U.S.C. § 30112(a), it is illegal for anyone, including a manufacturer, distributor, dealer, or retailer to sell an item of equipment or vehicle that fails to comply with all applicable Federal motor vehicle safety standards.

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.

Charles Machine Works, Inc.'s contact for this recall will be Michelle Rice who may be reached by email at [michelle.rice@dot.gov](mailto:michelle.rice@dot.gov). We look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,



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