

Part 573 Safety Recall Report

22V-398

Manufacturer Name : C.E. Smith Company, Inc.

Submission Date : JUN 16, 2022

NHTSA Recall No. : 22V-398

Manufacturer Recall No. : NR



Manufacturer Information :

Manufacturer Name : C.E. Smith Company, Inc.

Address : 1001 BITTING ST.

Greensboro NC 27403

Company phone : 336-273-0166

Population :

Number of potentially involved : 2,043

Estimated percentage with defect : 1 %

Vehicle Information :

Vehicle 1 : 2021-2022 C.E. Smith Company 48815, Multi-Sport

Vehicle Type : TRAILERS

Body Style : OTHER

Power Train : NR

Descriptive Information : shipped between October 2021 and May 2022. These are light weight, recreational trailers, sold as kits and assembled by the purchaser. Boat trailers for use as small marine or recreational trailers capable of transporting jet skis, kayaks, and boats that are 12 feet or less in length.

Production Dates : OCT 22, 2021 - MAR 29, 2022

VIN Range 1 : Begin : 4KF411210MG003443 End : 4KF41121XMG003532 ☒ Not sequential

Vehicle 2 : 2021-2022 C.E. Smith Company 48810, Multi-Sport

Vehicle Type : TRAILERS

Body Style : OTHER

Power Train : NR

Descriptive Information : Boat trailers for use as small marine or recreational trailers capable of transporting jet skis, kayaks, and boats that are 12 feet or less in length.

Production Dates : OCT 20, 2021 - MAY 09, 2022

VIN Range 1 : Begin : 4KF311210MG005043 End : 4KF31121XNG002281 ☒ Not sequential

Vehicle 3 : 2021-2022 Malone Auto Racks MPG460, MicroSport

Vehicle Type : TRAILERS

Body Style : OTHER

Power Train : NR

Descriptive Information : Boat trailers for use as small marine or recreational trailers capable of transporting jet skis, kayaks, and boats that are 12 feet or less in length.

Production Dates : OCT 11, 2021 - MAY 09, 2022

VIN Range 1 : Begin : 4KF611145NG001484 End : 4KF6114XNG0001335 ☒ Not sequential

Vehicle 4 : 2021-2022 C.E. Smith Company 48870, Multi-Sport Plus

Vehicle Type : TRAILERS

Body Style : OTHER

Power Train : NR

Descriptive Information : Boat trailers for use as small marine or recreational trailers capable of transporting jet skis, kayaks, and boats that are 12 feet or less in length

Production Dates : OCT 20, 2021 - MAY 11, 2022

VIN Range 1 : Begin : 4KF411410MG004895 End : 4KF41141XNG000094 ☒ Not sequential

Vehicle 5 : 2021-2022 Malone Auto Racks MPG585, EcoLight

Vehicle Type : TRAILERS

Body Style : ALL

Power Train : NR

Descriptive Information : Boat trailers for use as small marine or recreational trailers capable of transporting jet skis, kayaks, and boats that are 12 feet or less in length

Production Dates : NOV 05, 2021 - MAY 18, 2022

VIN Range 1 : Begin : 4KF211110MG005198 End : 4KF21111XNG003055 ☒ Not sequential

Description of Defect :

Description of the Defect : The welding which connects the trailer axle tube to the wheel spindle can fail, causing the wheel to come off of the axle.

FMVSS 1 : NR

FMVSS 2 : NR

Description of the Safety Risk : If there is a weld error, the wheel spindle could break off of the axle, causing the wheel to fall off while the trailer is in motion.

Description of the Cause : The supplier of the axle component began using a new robotic welding machine as part of its manufacturing process. Sure Trac believes that the robotic welder did not consistently line up a flush contact between the axle tube and the spindle before welding due to the jig assembly. If the operator did not ensure a flush fit, the weld could potentially fail by not holding the axle tube and the spindle together.

Identification of Any Warning that can Occur : There have been five reports of trailer kits being delivered to the customer with the spindle broken off the axle tube at the time of receipt.

Involved Components :

Component Name 1 : Trailer Axle

Component Description : Axle tube with welded-on wheel spindle

Component Part Number : 33001G

Supplier Identification :

Component Manufacturer

Name : Sure Trac, Inc

Address : 635 Hwy 9 By-pass West
Loris South Carolina 29569

Country : United States

Chronology :

In spring 2022, C.E. Smith and/or Malone Auto Rack received notice from five(5) customers that they had received the trailer kits which included a broken axle upon arrival and notice from two(2) customers that the axle had broken on the trailer while on the road. C.E. Smith then undertook a detailed, in-depth investigation to determine whether there was a defect and/or safety issue, and if so, the cause of that issue. C.E. Smith contacted Sure Trac, the manufacturer of the axle component and worked in tandem with Sure Trac on the investigation.

Sure Trac was able to trace the issue back to a combination of a new robotic welding machine which Sure Trac implemented into its process and operator failure to make sure there was a flush fit between the axle tube and the spindle before the robotic welding was performed. This combination is the likely cause of the weld not securely joining the axle tube and wheel spindle in the limited number of reported 33001G axles failures which were produced by Sure Trac for C.E. Smith from September 2021 through January 2022.

With this information, Sure Trac and C.E. Smith were able to determine that the defective axle part was manufactured by Sure Trac from September 2021 through January 2022. The reported failures are limited at this point to three batches of axles produced between September 2021 and January 2022, but in the abundance of caution all 33001G axles which were made in all batches produced between September 2021 and January 2022 and which were subsequently shipped by C.E. Smith could potentially be affected and therefore will be addressed.

Sure Trac has provided the serial part numbers of the axles made during the time period of concern which C.E. Smith has used to identify by VIN which of its trailer kits had been sold with a potentially defective part. On June 1, 2022, C.E. Smith determined that it did have a defect and notified Sure Trac of its determination.

To date, there have been no reported injuries.

Description of Remedy :

Description of Remedy Program : For the 48810, 48870 and 48815 models sold under the C.E. Smith brand which were drop-shipped directly to the purchaser by C.E. Smith, C.E. Smith will send a notice and a replacement axle part directly to customers who purchased a trailer with the potentially defective axle. For the 48810, 48870 and 48815 models sold under the C.E. Smith brand which were shipped to a distribution center of a retailer who sold the trailer for delivery to the purchaser, C.E. Smith is notifying and will work with the retailer to identify the customers with a potentially defective axle to send a notice and ship a replacement axle part. A replacement axle and instructions for assembly will then be sent to each customer who confirms they purchased a trailer with the potentially defective axle. The shipment of the replacement axle will include instructions for the consumer to swap out the potentially defective axle with the replacement axle using steps similar to the original assembly of the trailer kit by the consumer.

How Remedy Component Differs from Recalled Component : The replacement axle is welded to the wheel spindle using new processes implemented by Sure Trac to ensure that the wheel spindle and axle are held flush together during the welding process, making the axle weld stronger and preventing breakage.

Identify How/When Recall Condition was Corrected in Production : Following its investigation, Sure Trac discovered the flaw in its welding process and implemented process changes to ensure that the wheel spindle and axle remained flush during the welding process. None of the trailer models using the Sure Trac axles since that correction was made have been reported as having any issues.

Recall Schedule :

Description of Recall Schedule : C.E. Smith has notified Malone Auto Rack and other retail distributors of the issue and intends to notify consumers shortly after its notification letter to owners is approved by the NHTSA. Assuming that NHTSA can approve the letter within ten (10) days of receipt, C.E. Smith anticipates that it will be able to begin mailing out the notification letter and replacement parts beginning on approximately June 30, 2022.

Planned Dealer Notification Date : NR - NR

Planned Owner Notification Date : JUN 30, 2022 - NR

* NR - Not Reported