



December 6, 2018

Administrator
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

Re: Recall 18V-797 Petition for Part 556-Exemption for Inconsequential Defect of Noncompliance as it pertains to vehicle safety.

To NHTSA Administrator:

This notice is being sent in accordance with the requirements of the National Traffic Motor Vehicle Safety Act.

Applicant:

Great Dane LLC
131 Technology Circle
PO Box 67
Savannah, GA 31407 (PO Zip 31402)

Great Dane is a Limited Liability Corporation organized in Delaware with joint corporate offices in Chicago, IL, and Savannah, GA.

Nature of defect:

Certain 2002-2006 Model year dry freight trailers produced in the Jonesboro AR manufacturing facility may have been produced without a date stamped on the rear impact guard certification plate. Manufacture of these trailers began on or about July 01, 2002 and progressed until December 31, 2005 at which point the Jonesboro facility began utilizing date stamped rear impact guard certification plates. Total affected suspected population is 15,535 dry van semi-trailers.

Views and arguments:

This is a petition to the NHTSA for exemption from the Act's notification and remedy requirements in regards to recall 18V-797, on the grounds that the noncompliance is inconsequential as it relates to motor vehicle safety. As required by **Part 556 – Exemption for Inconsequential Defect of Noncompliance** section §556.4(b) (5) the following set forth our views and arguments supporting this petition:

It is Great Dane's position that lack of a date on the certification plate that is affixed to the horizontal member of the rear impact guard in no way contributes to a decrease in safety to any motorist. These rear impact guards are identified as being manufactured by Great Dane (along with the letters DOT) as required by the Federal Standard. The trailer itself also has affixed to it a certification plate that attests to the fact that the entire trailer (including the rear impact guard) does meet and/or exceed the Federal Motor

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Great Dane

Vehicle Safety Standards in effect on the date of manufacture as indicated. The fact that the date was not stamped on this particular group of trailers does not make these trailers any less safe. Once again, this particular group of trailers did have the rear impact guard certification plate installed, the name of the manufacturer was stamped on the plate, as well as the letters DOT. The lack of the manufacturing date, would seem to us, to be an inconsequential type of noncompliance as it relates to vehicle safety.

Additionally, earlier this year the CVSA (Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance) has agreed to petition both the NHTSA and FMCSA to remove the requirement for the certification plate on the rear impact guard. Great Dane has never installed a third party produced and marketed rear impact guard (to meet the standards of FMVSS 223 and 224) on any of the trailers that we have produced. Every trailer that we have built, that requires a rear impact guard as defined by FMVSS 223 and 224, also has the certification plate on its front that ensures the rear impact guard meets the Federal Standards. It would appear that the extra certification plate required on the rear impact guard horizontal is redundant, and again, the lack of a stamped date on these plates does not present itself as a hazard to motor vehicle safety.

Due to the extreme age of the trailers in this group (13-16 years old) we feel that the Act's notification and remedy process would not be very effective. Many, if not most of these trailers, are probably no longer in service. In the years this condition has existed, while these trailers have been in service, this is the first time that we have received notice that the date was not stamped on the plate attached to the rear impact guard horizontal. The fact that no one has noticed and brought this to our attention in all this time is another reason we feel like this instance of noncompliance would be deemed inconsequential.

Sincerely,

Daniel E. Carter
Director, Product Safety & Compliance
Great Dane LLC

Part 573 Safety Recall Report

18V-797

Manufacturer Name : Great Dane Trailers

Submission Date : DEC 05, 2018

NHTSA Recall No. : 18V-797

Manufacturer Recall No. : NR



Manufacturer Information :

Manufacturer Name : Great Dane Trailers

Address : 602 E Lathrop Avenue

Savannah GA 31415

Company phone : 912-232-4471

Population :

Number of potentially involved : 15,535

Estimated percentage with defect : 100 %

Vehicle Information :

Vehicle 1 : 2003-2006 Great Dane Dry Freight

Vehicle Type : TRAILERS

Body Style : OTHER

Power Train : NR

Descriptive Information : Our research indicates that the Jonesboro manufacturing facility began to stamp the RIG certification plates in December of 2005.

Production Dates : JUL 01, 2002 - DEC 31, 2005

VIN Range 1 : Begin :

NR

End : NR

Not sequential

Description of Noncompliance :

Description of the Noncompliance : Certain 2005 Model year dry freight trailers produced in the Jonesboro AR manufacturing facility may have been produced without a date stamped on the rear impact guard certification plate.

FMVSS 1 : 224 - Rear impact protection

FMVSS 2 : NR

Description of the Safety Risk : There is no safety risk. The rear impact guards meet the applicable certification standards, the manufacture date was just not stamped onto the RIG certification plates. Great Dane will be petitioning the agency since we believe this issue is inconsequential to motor vehicle safety.

Description of the Cause : NR

Identification of Any Warning that can Occur : NR

Supplier Identification :

Component Manufacturer

Name : NR
Address : NR
NR
Country : NR

Chronology :

Nov. 5, 2018: A customer reported that they discovered a rear impact guard certification plate that did not have the date stamped on it.
Nov. 6, 2018: During an investigation as to why this RIG certification plate had not been stamped, it was determined that there may be an additional quantity of plates that had not been date stamped that were installed on completed rear impact guards.
Nov. 9, 2018: Filed a notice of defect with NHTSA
Dec. 4, 2018: Documentation was found showing that stamping began in Dec. 2005, allowing the affected population to be calculated.

Description of Remedy :

Description of Remedy Program : NR
How Remedy Component Differs NR
from Recalled Component :
Identify How/When Recall Condition NR
was Corrected in Production :

Recall Schedule :

Description of Recall Schedule : NR
Planned Dealer Notification Date : NR - NR
Planned Owner Notification Date : NR - NR

* NR - Not Reported