

Part 573 Safety Recall Report

22V-697

Manufacturer Name : Autocar, LLC

Submission Date : SEP 16, 2022

NHTSA Recall No. : 22V-697

Manufacturer Recall No. : ACX-2205



Manufacturer Information :

Manufacturer Name : Autocar, LLC

Address : 551 S WASHINGTON STREET
HAGERSTOWN IN 47346

Company phone : 7654895499

Population :

Number of potentially involved : 236

Estimated percentage with defect : 100 %

Vehicle Information :

Vehicle 1 : 2022-2022 Autocar ACX (Xpeditor)

Vehicle Type : BUSES, MEDIUM & HEAVY VEHICLES

Body Style : OTHER

Power Train : NR

Descriptive Information : The suspect list is determined by axle serial number. All ACX (Xpeditor) units manufactured with the axle serial numbers and suspect tie rod clamps are included.

Production Dates : OCT 04, 2021 - FEB 07, 2022

VIN Range 1 : Begin : 5VCACRCE3NC238165 End : 5VCACLEF5NC239112 ☒ Not sequential

Description of Defect :

Description of the Defect : Per Meritor, the tie rod clamps may have been improperly heat treated and may fail structurally.

FMVSS 1 : NR

FMVSS 2 : NR

Description of the Safety Risk : If the tie rod tube clamp fails or becomes loose the threaded tie rod ends could become loose and potentially disconnect' resulting in a sudden loss of steering, increasing the risk of a crash.

Description of the Cause : Per Meritor, a manufacturing error resulted in improper heat treatment.

Identification of Any Warning : None
that can Occur :

Involved Components :

Component Name 1 : Meritor Tie Rod Tube Clamp

Component Description : Meritor Tie Rod Tube Clamp

Component Part Number : Meritor Tie Rod Tube Clamp

Supplier Identification :

Component Manufacturer

Name : Meritor Inc

Address : 2535 W Maple Rd
Troy Michigan 48084

Country : United States

Chronology :

August 2022 During manufacturing, Autocar personnel discovered a structural crack in a tie rod clamp and an internal investigation began. Autocar contacted Meritor regarding the concern and were informed of a heat treatment error that occurred during production of the tie rod clamp. Meritor provided a list of suspect axle serial numbers that were sold to Autocar and an immediate quarantine was set in place for the axles in Autocar inventory. September 9, 2022 all relevant information was presented to Autocar management team and Autocar decided to perform a voluntary safety recall.

Description of Remedy :

Description of Remedy Program : The tie rod clamps will be replaced at no charge to the owner. Autocar will voluntarily initiate an owner notification and recall of all affected vehicles. Autocar will distribute to owners of affected vehicles an Owner Notification Letter, which will describe the defect and provide instructions for scheduling the inspection/repair of the vehicle at no cost to the vehicle's owner. The owner letter will instruct vehicle owners who have paid to have this condition remedied prior to this campaign to seek reimbursement pursuant to Autocar's General Reimbursement Plan, on file with the agency pursuant to 49 C.F.R. 573.6(c)(8)(i) and 49 C.F.R 573.13.

How Remedy Component Differs from Recalled Component : The tie rod clamps will be replaced with properly heat treated clamps.

Identify How/When Recall Condition was Corrected in Production : The suspect axles were identified by serial number and quarantined to establish a clean point for production.

Recall Schedule :

Description of Recall Schedule : Customer and dealer notifications will begin November 14, 2022 and end November 15, 2022

Planned Dealer Notification Date : NOV 14, 2022 - NOV 15, 2022

Planned Owner Notification Date : NOV 14, 2022 - NOV 15, 2022

* NR - Not Reported