

Part 573 Safety Recall Report

24E-097

Manufacturer Name : Limitless Van

Submission Date : NOV 18, 2024

NHTSA Recall No. : 24E-097

Manufacturer Recall No. : NR



Manufacturer Information :

Manufacturer Name : Limitless Van

Address : 409 Evergreen Dr.
NORTH BONNEVILLE WA 98639

Company phone : 831-0681

Population :

Number of potentially involved : 28

Estimated percentage with defect : 10 %

Equipment Information :

Brand / Trade 1 : Limitless Van
Model : Rear Tire Mount
Part No. : NA
Size : NR
Function : Hold Spare Tire

Descriptive Information : Our investigation determined that the likely root cause of the defect lies within a specific batch of three rear tire mounts manufactured in January 2022. This batch was produced by an interim weld technician, not our regular technician. Photos and measurements of the defective tire mounts indicate that the incorrect tubing was used. It's likely that the interim technician may have operated the weld machine incorrectly for the tubing type used. This combination of factors likely compromised the structural integrity of the mounts in this batch.

While we have confirmed one failed tire mount from this batch, we cannot confidently identify the recipients of the other two mounts. To ensure safety, we will recall all rear tire mounts sold prior to September 1, 2023.

The recalled rear tire mounts feature the original design with a single weld. In contrast, rear tire mounts sold after September 1, 2023, feature an updated design with significant safety improvements, including four additional ¼-inch aluminum gussets as well as 2.5" x 2.5" by ¼" aluminum tubing welded to a ½" plate on both sides of the plate, compared to a single-side weld in the original design.

Additionally, a stricter quality control process was implemented post-September 1, 2023, verifying the use of compliant tubing and correct weld machine operation.

Based on sales records, we estimate that approximately 30 rear tire mounts featuring the original design were sold prior to September 1, 2023. This includes the likely defective mounts from the January 2022 batch as well as others produced before the updated design and quality controls were implemented. We have already replaced two of these original 30 with the updated design, so only 28 tire mounts are included in the recall.

Production Dates : JUN 01, 2021 - AUG 31, 2023

Description of Defect :

Description of the Defect : The defect involves poor penetration of the weld on the rear tire mount, likely caused by the use of incorrect tubing combined with improper weld machine operation, compromising the mount's structural integrity.

FMVSS 1 : NR

FMVSS 2 : NR

Description of the Safety Risk : If the weld fails, the rear tire mount could fall into the roadway, causing serious risk of harm to other vehicles and vehicle occupants.

Description of the Cause : NR

Identification of Any Warning that can Occur : NR

Involved Components :

Component Name : Rear Tire Mount

Component Description : NR

Component Part Number : NR

Supplier Identification :

Component Manufacturer

Name : Silver Star Industries

Address : 409 Evergreen Dr.
NORTH BONNEVILLE Washington 98639

Country : United States

Chronology :

On August 31, 2023, we received notice from an owner that the weld on his rear tire mount had failed. We immediately began an investigation and determined that this owner's tire mount was part of a batch of three

manufactured in January 2022. Notably, this batch was the only one where a technician other than our regular weld specialist logged production hours.

Based on photos of the failed tire mount, our manufacturing partner concluded that the interim weld technician had likely used tubing that did not meet our specifications. While this tubing alone would not have caused the failure, the issue likely arose from the combination of incorrect tubing and the technician’s improper use of an alternate weld machine. The manufacturer stated this was likely the only tire mount produced by the interim weld technician. As a result, we treated this as a warranty issue, sent the owner a newly-updated replacement tire mount, and took immediate steps to enhance quality control processes. Additionally, we updated the design of the rear tire mount to incorporate redundant safety features, ensuring multiple welds would have to fail for the mount to pose any safety risk.

On October 30, 2024, we received notice from a second owner regarding a weld failure on his rear tire mount. This report raised significant concerns, as it indicated the issue was not isolated to a single unit. Although this mount also featured the original design, we could not conclusively identify the production batch. However, based on the timeline, it was likely that this mount originated from the same January 2022 batch of three. This discovery suggested that more defective tire mounts might exist and that the manufacturer’s initial assessment—indicating only one mount was affected—was incorrect. Recognizing the potential safety implications, we reclassified the issue as a product defect and out of an abundance of caution, initiated a recall for all tire mounts with the original design

Description of Remedy :

- Description of Remedy Program :

We will replace all potentially defective rear tire mounts with updated models at no cost to the owners. An initial email has been sent to notify all affected owners of the potential safety risk and provide a temporary solution to mitigate the risk while they wait for their replacement. Official recall letters will follow shortly. If any owners have already replaced the defective part on their own accord, they will be eligible for monetary compensation.
- How Remedy Component Differs from Recalled Component :

The recalled rear tire mounts have the original design, characterized by a single weld point connecting the mount to the aluminum plate. This design is more vulnerable to failure under specific conditions. In contrast, the remedy components, feature an updated design with significant safety improvements, including four additional ¼-inch aluminum gussets as well as 2.5” x 2.5” by ¼” aluminum tubing welded to a ½” plate on both sides of the plate, compared to a single-side weld in the original design.

Identify How/When Recall Condition was Corrected in Production :

We identified that three tire mounts were likely produced incorrectly by an interim weld technician. On September 1, 2023, we implemented an updated design with enhanced structural features and introduced stricter quality control measures. As a result, all tire mounts produced after this date are excluded from the recall.

Recall Schedule :

Description of Recall Schedule :

An initial email has already been sent, and we plan to send official recall notices by mail in early December.

Planned Dealer Notification Date :

NR - NR

Planned Owner Notification Date :

DEC 09, 2024 - DEC 16, 2024

Purchaser Information :

The following manufacturers purchased this defective/noncompliant equipment for possible use or installation in new motor vehicles or new items of motor vehicle equipment:

Name :

NR

Address :

NR

Country :

NR

Company Phone :

NR

* NR - Not Reported