

PIERCE MANUFACTURING INC.

AN OSHKOSH TRUCK CORPORATION COMPANY • ISO 9001 CERTIFIED

2600 AMERICAN DRIVE

POST OFFICE BOX 2017

APPLETON, WISCONSIN 54912-2017

920-832-3000 • FAX 920-832-3208



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2002 OCT 30 P 3:03

OFFICE OF DEFECTS INVESTIGATION

October 4, 2002

Mr. Kenneth N. Weinstein (NEF-01)  
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
400 Seventh Street SW  
Washington DC 20990

Subject: **Equipment Recall 02E-017.102 TRW Tie-Rod Recall**  
**Vehicle Recall No. TBD**

Dear Mr. Weinstein:

ArvinMeritor has informed Pierce that a defect exists in certain TRW tie-rods installed on ArvinMeritor axles on Pierce custom chassis. This recall is in addition to the earlier recall that TRW is performing on the same parts. Pierce will be conducting the recall for this item. We therefore furnish notification of a defect to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, in accordance with 49 CFR Part 573, *Defect and Noncompliance Reports*.

Manufacturer's Identification Code: 39-0139830

**1. Name of Manufacturer and Corporate contact:**

Pierce Manufacturing Inc.  
Roger Lackore, Director of New Product Development  
Phone: 920 832-3249  
FAX: 920 832-3092  
E-Mail: rlackore@piercemfg.com

**2. Identification of Vehicle Classification:** Certain custom chassis shipped between March 1, 2000 and December 1, 2000 and certain aftermarket tie-rod end kits shipped in that same time frame.

**3. Number of Potentially Affected Vehicles:**

**Pierce Administrated Recall 02E-017.102:** 54 vehicles  
18 aftermarket kits  
3 axle serial numbers that cannot be traced.

**4. Estimated Percentage of Vehicles Containing the Defect or Noncompliance:** Unknown.

**5. Description of the defect or non-compliance:** TRW conducted a safety recall of the 20-EDL ball-sockets and tie-rod ends as defined by specific date codes stamped on the assemblies. Specifically, the recall warns *"that a potential defect exists which relates to motor vehicle safety in certain TRW 20-EDL tie rod ends and ball-socket assemblies. TRW Model 20-EDL ball-socket assemblies may separate due to premature wear in some applications. If the TRW 20-EDL model-ball socket assembly were to separate, there could be loss of vehicle steering control in some applications. TRW has recommended that suspect TRW 20-EDL ball-socket assemblies be replaced."*

**6. Chronology of Principal Events:** TRW initiated a recall on defective tie-rods. These tie rods are installed on ArvinMeritor axles purchased by Pierce for installation on custom fire truck chassis. TRW conducted their own recall initially. Pierce sent letters to its customers informing them that their vehicles would be covered by a TRW recall and to expect notification. This action covered approximately 400 Pierce vehicles.

ArvinMeritor decided that the recall should really cover a larger percentage of units. ArvinMeritor provided Pierce with a list of additional axle serial numbers that they feel should be recalled. Pierce has identified the effected vehicles and is preparing to conduct this portion of the recall for ArvinMeritor and TRW.

**7. Test Results or Data on which the Noncompliance was Determined:** N/A

**8. Corrective Action:** The defective tie-rods will be replaced.

**9. Representative Notices:** Enclosed are copies of the notices we have sent or plan on sending to our customers and dealers.

Please call if you have any questions.

Sincerely,  
Pierce Manufacturing, Inc



Roger Lackore, P.E.  
Director of New Product Development



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TO: Pierce Sales Principles

FROM: Tom Van Susteren – Field Upgrades and Recall

DATE: October 7, 2002

SUBJECT: Arvin/Meritor -TRW Recall - Tie Rod Assemblies and Ends

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About one year ago TRW conducted a safety recall of the 20-EDL ball-sockets and tie-rod ends as defined by specific date codes stamped on the assemblies. Specifically, the recall warns *"that a potential defect exists which relates to motor vehicle safety in certain TRW 20-EDL tie rod ends and ball-socket assemblies. TRW Model 20-EDL ball-socket assemblies may separate due to premature wear in some applications. If the TRW 20-EDL model-ball socket assembly were to separate, there could be loss of vehicle steering control in some applications. TRW has recommended that suspect TRW 20-EDL ball-socket assemblies be replaced."*

The original TRW recall was handled by TRW and ArvinMeritor. Pierce Manufacturing, our Dealers and ultimately our customers were adversely affected by the confusion surrounding the conducting of that recall. Recently, ArvinMeritor advised Pierce that they are amending and expanding the recall to additional date codes to be assured of capturing any and all defective parts. Pierce Manufacturing Customer Service will conduct this recall to avoid a repeat of the inconvenience and confusion experienced with the initial recall.

ArvinMeritor has provided Pierce with the serial numbers of the front axles that may have defective TRW parts. From this information we have identified the Pierce job numbers having those axles.

You are receiving this letter because you have a truck(s) in your territory identified with possible defective parts. Pierce will ship ArvinMeritor kits to the Dealers for each truck identified. The Dealer will arrange for a technician to go to the truck with a kit. If the truck has a tie-rod end with a date code identifying potentially defective parts, the technician is to replace those parts with the kit. Pierce warranty will pay one hour for the inspection and/or replacement of those parts, and up to two hours travel time.

The designation of this Campaign for warranty purposes is 74B35. Each warranty claim must include the serial number of the kit installed and the date code of the defective tie-rod end for payment. Unused kits are to be returned to Pierce and the postage charged to the WRO.

The original recall date codes were 9G1, 9G2, 9G3, 9G4, 9H1, 9H2, 9H3, 9H4, 9H5, 9J1, 9J2, 9J3, 9J4. The amended additional date codes are to also include 9L1, 9L2, 9L3, 9L4, 9L5, 9M1, 9M2, 9M3, 9M4, OA1, OA2, OA3, OA4, OA5, OB1, OB2, OB3, OB4, OC1, OC2, OC3, OC4, OD1, OD2, OD3, OD4, OE1, OE2, OF2, OF3, OF4, OG1, OG2, OG3, OG4.

The trucks in your dealer territory affected by this recall are:

11077	BALTIMORE FIRE DEPT, CITY OF	POTOMAC	NKA00006032	4P1CT02U7YA000479
11077	BALTIMORE FIRE DEPT, CITY OF	POTOMAC	NKA00007445	4P1CT02U3YA000480
11077	BALTIMORE FIRE DEPT, CITY OF	POTOMAC	NKA00007446	4P1CT02U5YA000481
11077	BALTIMORE FIRE DEPT, CITY OF	POTOMAC	NKA00007447	4P1CT02U7YA000482
11077	BALTIMORE FIRE DEPT, CITY OF	POTOMAC	NKA00007448	4P1CT02U9YA000483
11077	BALTIMORE FIRE DEPT, CITY OF	POTOMAC	NKA00008721	4P1CT02U0YA000484
11077	BALTIMORE FIRE DEPT, CITY OF	POTOMAC	NKA00008722	4P1CT02U2YA000485
11077	BALTIMORE FIRE DEPT, CITY OF	POTOMAC	NKA00008723	4P1CT02U4YA000486
11077	BALTIMORE FIRE DEPT, CITY OF	POTOMAC	NKA00008724	4P1CT02U6YA000487
11077	BALTIMORE FIRE DEPT, CITY OF	POTOMAC	NKA00008725	4P1CT02U8YA000488

The manufacturing date code is stamped either on the ball socket cap, opposite the ball stud opening, or on the bar or tube of the tie rod assembly (see instructions). Please be aware that the ball-stud and and tube or bar for the tie rod assembly may have paint over the date code. Use a wire brush to remove paint for a careful inspection. Date codes not listed above are not included in this recall

Customer letters for Pierce factory installed parts will be sent five days after Dealer letters are mailed. This communication is also being conveyed by e-mail.

Regards,

Joe Barry-Manager  
Customer Service-Technical

2600 American Drive, Appleton, WI 54912-2017 • (888) 974-3723 FAX (920) 832-3049



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TO: Pierce Valued Customer

FROM: Joe Barry-Manager Customer Service Technical

DATE: October 7, 2002

SUBJECT: Arvin/Meritor -TRW Recall - Tie Rod Assemblies and Ends

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ArvinMeritor has provided Pierce with the serial numbers of the front axles that may have defective TRW parts. From this information we have identified the Pierce job numbers having those axles.

You are receiving this letter because you have taken delivery of a Pierce truck(s) that could have these defective parts. Pierce will ship ArvinMeritor kits to the Dealers for each truck identified. The Dealer will arrange for a technician to go to the truck with a kit. If the truck has a tie-rod end with a date code identifying potentially defective parts, the technician is to replace those parts with the kit. Pierce warranty will pay one hour for the inspection and/or replacement of those parts, and up to two hours travel time.

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