



U.S. Department of Transportation
**National Highway Traffic Safety
Administration**

1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

August 6, 2015

Ms. Lois Slings
Product Liability Risk Manager
Vermeer Manufacturing Company
PO Box 200, 1210 Vermeer Road East
Pella, IA 50219-0200

NVS-215MR
15V-447

Subject: Discharge Chute may Crack and Detach from Chipper

Dear Ms. Slings:

This letter serves to acknowledge Vermeer Manufacturing Company's notification to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) of a safety recall which will be conducted pursuant to Federal law for the product(s) listed below. Please review the following information to ensure that it conforms to your records as this information is being made available to the public. If the information does not agree with your records, please contact us immediately to discuss your concerns.

Makes/Models/Model Years:

VERMEER/BC900XL/2012-2015

Mfr's Report Date: July 13, 2015

NHTSA Campaign Number: 15V-447

Components:

EQUIPMENT:MECHANICAL

Potential Number of Units Affected: 481

Problem Description:

Vermeer Manufacturing Company (Vermeer) is recalling certain model year 2012-2015 BC900XL brush chippers manufactured January 30, 2012, to July 30, 2015. The flanges that attach the brush chipper discharge chute may crack and fail while the brush chipper is being towed, causing the chute to separate from the chipper.

Consequence:

If the chute detaches from the chipper, it would become a road hazard, increasing the risk of a crash.

Remedy:

Vermeer will notify owners, and dealers will relocate the discharge chute rotation clamps and will add an additional clamp, free of charge. The recall is expected to begin September 9, 2015. Owners may contact Vermeer customer service at 1-800-829-0051.

Notes:

Owners may also contact the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration Vehicle Safety Hotline at 1-888-327-4236 (TTY 1-800-424-9153), or go to www.safercar.gov.

Please be reminded of the following requirements:

You are required to submit a draft owner notification letter to this office no less than five days prior to mailing it to the customers. Also, copies of all notices, bulletins, dealer notifications, and other communications that relate to this recall, including a copy of the final owner notification letter and any subsequent owner follow-up notification letter(s), are required to be submitted to this office no later than 5 days after they are originally sent (if they are sent to more than one manufacturer, distributor, dealer, or purchaser/owner).

Please be reminded that under 49 U.S.C. § 30112(a)(3), it is illegal for a manufacturer, to sell, offer for sale, import, or introduce or deliver into interstate commerce, a motor vehicle or item of motor vehicle equipment that contains a safety defect once the manufacturer has notified NHTSA about that safety defect. This prohibition does not apply once the motor vehicle or motor vehicle equipment has been remedied according to the manufacturer's instructions.

As stated in Part 573.7, submission of the first of six consecutive quarterly status reports is required within one month after the close of the calendar quarter in which notification to purchasers occurs. Therefore, the first quarterly report will be due on, or before, 30 days after the close of the calendar quarter.

Your contact for this recall will be Michelle Rice who may be reached by phone at 202-366-1060, or by email at michelle.rice@dot.gov or through the office email at rmd.odi@dot.gov. We look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jennifer Timian". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

Jennifer Timian
Chief, Recall Management Division
Office of Defects Investigations
Enforcement