



U.S. Department
of Transportation

NOV - 6 2002

400 Seventh Street, SW
Washington, DC 20590

**National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration**

**INITIAL ACKNOWLEDGMENT FAX SHEET OF RECEIPT OF
DEFECT INFORMATION REPORT SUBMITTED UNDER 49 CFR PART 573**

Assigned Recall No. **02E-017.004** by the
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

Part 573 Report Date: October 8, 2002

MANUFACTURER: Pierce Manufacturing, Inc.

MANUFACTURER CONTACT: Mr. Roger Lackore, P.E.
Director of New Product Development

FAX: 920-832-3092

SUBJECT: 18 ArvinMeritor tie rod end service kits shipped between March 1 and December 1, 2000. The date codes involved are 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 tie rod ball-socket bearings have a below specification case depth and/or hardness which can lead to premature deterioration of the socket in some applications. This could lead to tie rod end ball separation from the socket. If this condition occurs, the driver can lose control of the vehicle, possibly resulting in a vehicle crash.

This is an **initial** acknowledgment for this recall. A formal acknowledgment letter will be forthcoming shortly. After our review of your report and associated documents, we may have additional comments or concerns.

If you have any questions, please call:

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Kelly Schuler'.

Kelly Schuler, Safety Defect Analyst or George Person, Chief
On (202) 366-5227 or by FAX (202) 366-7882
Recall Management Division
kschuler@nhtsa.dot.gov
Faxed 11/6/02



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of Transportation
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400 Seventh Street, S.W. SYMBOL
Washington, D.C. 20590

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Mr. Roger Lackore
Director of New Product Development
Pierce Manufacturing, Inc.
P.O. Box 2017
Appleton, WI 54912-2017

NVS-215 kjs
02E-017.004

Dear Mr. Lackore:

We have reviewed Pierce Manufacturing, Inc.'s (Pierce) Defect Information Report submitted in accordance with 49 CFR Part 573, "Defect and Noncompliance Reports," dated October 8, 2002. This recall involves 18 ArvinMeritor tie rod end service kits shipped between March 1 and December 1, 2000. The date codes involved are 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 tie rod ball-socket bearings have a below specification case depth and/or hardness which can lead to premature deterioration of the socket in some applications. This could lead to tie rod end ball separation from the socket. If this condition occurs, the driver can lose control of the vehicle, possibly resulting in a vehicle crash. The assigned NHTSA identification number for this campaign is 02E-017.004.

Pierce is responsible for the repair of this equipment from this day forward regardless of age or ownership.

NOTIFICATION TO PURCHASERS

We have reviewed your proposed owner notification letter and it meets the requirements of Part 577. Please provide us with any final document pertaining to this campaign.

QUARTERLY REPORTS

As stated in Part 573.6, 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. Pierce's first quarterly report will be due in this office by January 30, 2003.



The following chart provides due dates for each of the six quarterly reports.

<u>QUARTER</u>	<u>QUARTER BEGINS</u>	<u>QUARTER ENDS</u>	<u>DUE DATE</u>
1 st Quarter	October 1, 2002	December 31, 2002	January 30, 2003
2 nd Quarter	January 1, 2003	March 31, 2003	April 30, 2003
3 rd Quarter	April 1, 2003	June 30, 2003	July 30, 2003
4 th Quarter	July 1, 2003	September 30, 2003	October 30, 2003
5 th Quarter	October 1, 2003	December 31, 2003	January 30, 2004
6 th Quarter	January 1, 2004	March 31, 2003	April 30, 2003

If you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Kelly Schuler at (202) 366-5227 or fax at (202) 366-7882.

Sincerely,

George Person, Chief
Recall Management Division
Office of Defects Investigation
Enforcement