

OWNER LETTER

SAFETY RECALL NOTICE

Expansion of Previous Recall of Certain Reese (P/N 54970) and Pro Series (P/N 63970) Weight Distribution Shanks

Recall No. 11E027

December 2011

Dear Valued Customer:

This notice is sent to you in accordance with the requirements of the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act. Cequent Performance Products, Inc. ("Cequent") has decided that a defect which relates to motor vehicle safety exists in certain production lots of Reese and Pro Series brand weight distribution shanks. Our records indicate that you may have purchased a weight distribution kit potentially containing one of the recalled shanks.* If you purchased one of these kits prior to August 1, 2010, you are not affected by this recall. However, if you purchased your kit on or after August 1, 2010, please review this notice carefully.

IMPORTANT NOTE: You may have received a prior notice concerning this recall. Cequent has decided to expand this recall to include additional serial numbers. Accordingly, please review the information below to determine whether your product is covered.

What Products are Involved?

This recall involves Reese Part No. 54970 and Pro Series Part No. 63970 weight distribution shanks marked with serial numbers **TD100391 through TD100523**. These parts were sold both individually and as a component in certain Reese and Pro Series weight distributing kits.

What is the Problem?

As a result of a production error, some weight distribution shanks were not manufactured to the correct specifications. As a consequence, the shank may fracture when subjected to load during installation or use, potentially causing a crash.

What You Should Do?

Please follow these instructions to determine if you own one of the recalled shanks.

1. Locate the serial number on the shank, as shown in Figures 1 and 2:

* Federal regulations require any lessor receiving this letter to forward it to the lessee within 10 days.



Figure 1



Figure 2

If the serial number falls within the range **TD100391 through TD100523**, or if the serial number cannot be read, please contact Cequent Customer Service at 1-877-208-2573 to coordinate pickup and replacement of the shank. **DO NOT CONTINUE TO USE THE SHANK.** A replacement shank will be provided free of charge.

If you have any questions about this recall, please call Cequent Customer Service at 1-877-208-2573. For the most up-to-date information concerning this recall, please visit <http://www.cequentgroup.com/wdshank.pdf>. If you are unable to obtain a remedy without charge within a reasonable time, you may submit a complaint to: Administrator, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE, Washington, D.C. 20590; or call the toll-free Auto Safety Hotline at 1-888-327-4326 (TTY: 1-800-424-9153); or go to <http://www.safercar.gov>.

* * *

We appreciate your cooperation and prompt attention to this important matter, and apologize for any inconvenience.

Sincerely,

Cequent Performance Products, Inc.

DEALER, DISTRIBUTOR & INSTALLER DOCUMENT

SAFETY RECALL NOTICE

Expansion of Previous Recall of Certain Reese (P/N 54970) and Pro Series (P/N 63970) Weight Distribution Shanks

NHTSA Recall No. 11E027

Dear Valued Customer:

We previously notified you that Cequent Performance Products, Inc. ("Cequent") is voluntarily recalling certain production lots of Reese and Pro Series brand weight distribution shanks. We are writing to advise you that Cequent has decided to expand the scope of this recall to cover additional serial numbers for the affected products. Our records indicate that some of the shanks within the expanded recall may have been shipped to you, and ask that you review this notice carefully.*

What Products are Involved?

This recall involves Reese Part No. 54970 and Pro Series Part No. 63970 weight distribution shanks marked with serial numbers **TD100391 through TD100523**. These parts were sold both individually and as a component in the kits listed in Addendum 1. The recalled parts were shipped by Cequent on or after August 1, 2010. Products shipped prior to August 1, 2010 are not involved.

What is the Problem?

As a result of a production error, some of the weight distribution shanks in the recall population may have a carbon content that is higher than specified. As a consequence, the shank may fracture when subjected to load during installation or use.

What You Should Do?

(a) Recalled product in inventory: You will receive replacement product free of charge on returning the recalled products to us at the following address. Please coordinate all returns through the Cequent customer service phone number below.

Cequent Performance Products, Inc.
47912 Halyard Drive Suite 100
Plymouth, MI 48170
1-877-208-2573

Under federal law, you may not sell the recalled products.

Please follow these instructions to locate any recalled products (individual shanks and/or kits) remaining in your inventory:

1. For 54970 and 63970 shanks, quarantine all shanks with serial numbers TD100391 through TD100523 (See Figures 2 & 3 to locate serial #.) Contact Cequent Customer Service to coordinate pickup and replacement of shanks that

* Federal regulations require any lessor receiving this letter to forward it to the lessee within 10 days.

match the serial numbers indicated above. If the shank serial number cannot be clearly read, quarantine the shank and immediately contact Cequent customer service to coordinate pickup and replacement of the shank.

2. For weight distributing kits containing recalled shanks, locate any of the part/kit numbers listed in Addendum 1 in your inventory.



Figure 1

a. If the label has a $\frac{3}{4}$ " round yellow sticker with an "X" through it or has a 1" round green sticker, the kit is okay and does not need to be checked. For kits without the $\frac{3}{4}$ " round yellow sticker with an "X" through it or has a 1" round green sticker, please proceed to step (b) below.

b. If the carton has a 3-digit serial number sticker on it as shown in Figure 1 (some Pro Series kits), then cross reference the date code and 3-digit serial number sticker against the Sorting List (Addendum 2). If you identify a match, remove the shank from the WD kit and quarantine the shank. Contact Cequent customer service to coordinate pickup and replacement of the shank. If the serial # does not match the sorting list, the WD kit can be placed back into your stock.

c. If the carton does not have a 3-digit serial number sticker on it, the carton must be opened to determine whether it contains a recalled part. Remove the shank from the carton and locate the serial number where indicated below:



Figure 2



Figure 3

Quarantine all shanks with serial numbers **TD100391 through TD100523**. Contact Cequent customer service to coordinate pickup and replacement of the shank. If the serial number cannot be read, quarantine the shank and immediately contact Cequent customer service to coordinate pickup and replacement of the shank.

d. Please clearly mark every inspected WD kit by writing "OK" plus the date that the kit was inspected below the product description on the white product label. The white space below "1200# Pro Series Round Bar WD Kit" in Figure 1 is where the label should be marked by your inspector. This mark will notify your customers who receive future shipments from you that the product has been inspected.

(b) Recalled product in the hands of your customers and owners: Please forward copies of this letter and attachments within five (5) business days to any reselling customers who may have purchased the recalled products from you on or after August 1, 2010. They will be provided free replacement products on the same basis as above.

We also request that you transmit copies of the attached consumer letter through your distribution system. It advises consumers/end users of steps to be taken by them to obtain a replacement free of charge. Specifically, consumers are advised to contact Cequent customer service directly for all suspect products. Cequent will honor any replacement and freight charges associated with the return. Alternatively, you may

provide contact information to Cequent, and Cequent will coordinate notification to these customers.

If you have any questions about this recall, please call Cequent Customer Service at **1-877-208-2573**

We appreciate your cooperation and prompt attention to this important matter, and apologize for any inconvenience.

Sincerely,

Paul C. Caruso
Vice President & General Manager, Towing Division

Attachment (Letter to Owners)

ADDENDUM 1

LIST OF AFFECTED WEIGHT DISTRIBUTING KITS

| |
|-----------|
| 49568 |
| 49568-020 |
| 49569 |
| 49569-020 |
| 49570 |
| 49570-020 |
| 49585 |
| 49585-020 |
| 49586 |
| 49586-020 |
| 49587 |
| 49587-020 |
| 54980 |
| 61009 |
| 62542 |
| 62556 |
| 65509 |
| 66082 |
| 66083 |
| 66084 |
| 66086 |
| 66087 |
| 66088 |
| 66151 |
| 66153 |
| 66155 |
| 66157 |
| 66540 |
| 66541 |
| 66542 |
| 67509 |

