

Part 573 Safety Recall Report

18V-642

Manufacturer Name : Heil Environmental**Submission Date :** SEP 17, 2018**NHTSA Recall No. :** 18V-642**Manufacturer Recall No. :** BRACKET**Manufacturer Information :**

Manufacturer Name : Heil Environmental

Address : 2030 Hamilton Place Blvd.
Suite 200 Chattanooga TN 37421

Company phone : 423-648-5250

Population :

Number of potentially involved : 5,704

Estimated percentage with defect : 1 %

Vehicle Information :

Vehicle 1 : 2014-2016 Heil Various Refuse Collection Bodies (Garbage Trucks)

Vehicle Type : LOW VOLUME VEHICLES

Body Style : OTHER

Power Train : NR

Descriptive Information : - The part number was researched from our bills of materials within the production database.

- The recalled product components have been replaced with a redesigned bracket.
- Since these parts have been in service for at least 2 years, and we have received very few reports of cracking, it is estimated by our engineers that fewer than 1% of the installed population is affected. The cracking is easily identifiable with a simple visual inspection - which is typically done daily as either a pre-trip or post-trip inspection by our end-users. Any cracking of these mounting brackets would also be observed during routine maintenance inspections.
- A variety of garbage truck body types are potentially affected, and it should be noted that each hydraulic reservoir tank is attached to the chassis frame rail using 2 brackets.

Production Dates : JUN 03, 2014 - OCT 17, 2016

VIN Range 1 : Begin :

NR

End : NR

 Not sequential**Description of Defect :**

Description of the Defect : In certain Heil garbage truck bodies, the support brackets used to fasten the hydraulic oil tank to the truck may crack. If the cracks in both brackets continue to propagate to the point where they fail, the tank could eventually disengage from the chassis frame rails. The presence of cracks are readily identifiable by a visual inspection.

FMVSS 1 : NR

FMVSS 2 : NR

Description of the Safety Risk : If the cracks in both brackets are allowed to propagate to the point where the

Description of the Safety Risk : brackets fail, the hydraulic oil tank could eventually disengage from the chassis frame rails. Depending on the vehicle condition, hydraulic oil could spill, increasing the risk of a crash.

Description of the Cause : During the manufacturing process, the bend in the sheet metal for the affected parts was formed parallel to the grain of the metal instead of across the grain.

Identification of Any Warning that can Occur : The end-user may observe cracks in the brackets that support the tank and if allowed to progress, over time the tank could sag. The brackets supporting the tank are typically located on the driver's side of the truck, behind the cab, but in some circumstances could be located on the opposite side of the truck. Regardless of placement, the brackets are readily visible and without the need to disassemble or move any other components.

Supplier Identification :

Component Manufacturer

Name : The Heil Co.

Address : 2030 Hamilton Place Blvd.
Suite 200 Chattanooga TENNESSEE 37421

Country : United States

Chronology :

Heil uses brackets to fasten hydraulic oil tanks to certain models of its garbage truck bodies. For each hydraulic oil tank, there are two brackets mounted to the chassis frame rail. For many years, Heil used a 2 x 2 x 1/4" L-shaped angle bracket to secure the tanks to the chassis frame rail. Beginning in 2014, Heil began to observe variations in the construction and placement of chassis components of among the different chassis makes and models used by Heil. These variations led Heil to offset and move the tank from its usual mounting position. When the tank was moved, the new positioning would not accommodate the L-shaped bracket that Heil typically used and, accordingly, Heil designed a new bracket to secure the tanks. The new bracket was a 1/4" inch steel formed channel bracket and was put into production in June 2014. The bracket was initially produced by Heil, but in April 2016, production was outsourced to a supplier.

After the formed channel bracket was introduced into production, Heil received a limited number of reports of cracks of varying degrees forming on brackets in the field. Reports of metal cracking are not unusual given the extreme conditions in which garbage trucks are used, but Heil's field service group began to monitor the issue and ultimately initiated a technical investigation to understand the cause and consequences of the cracking. The investigation found inconsistencies in the manufacturing process for the bracket and Heil began to consider the development of a revised bracket.

Heil had not received any reports as of this time suggesting the possibility of injuries or property damage relating to the cracks in the brackets. The lack of incidents is consistent with the practice requiring drivers to inspect their garbage trucks prior to each run and during regular preventative maintenance inspections. The cracks in the brackets, while microscopic initially,... [CONTINUED BELOW UNDER COMMENTS TO NHTSA STAFF SECTION]

Description of Remedy :

Description of Remedy Program : Heil will instruct users to bring their vehicles to an authorized Heil dealer for service at their earliest convenience. The dealer will replace both brackets free of charge. Heil will also provide a set of inspection instructions to users that reinforce the need for a daily pre-trip inspection and describe how to inspect for the presence of cracks. Users should continue to inspect their vehicles until a repair can be scheduled.

How Remedy Component Differs from Recalled Component : The remedy part is a 2.5" x 3" angled bracket instead of formed channel style bracket.

Identify How/When Recall Condition was Corrected in Production : The angled bracket was introduced in production beginning October 17, 2016.

Recall Schedule :

Description of Recall Schedule : - Dealers will be notified of both an inspection protocol as well as a repair procedure in the form of 2 separate Service Bulletins.
- End Users will receive the Inspection Protocol Service Bulletin, which will include information on how to get replacement parts installed.

Planned Dealer Notification Date : SEP 28, 2018 - OCT 05, 2018

Planned Owner Notification Date : OCT 05, 2018 - OCT 19, 2018

* NR - Not Reported