

Dear Customer,

Our company, Autoflex-Knott Kft., has been committed to providing quality and reliable products to its customers for over 40 years. Our products and production are continuously developed in this spirit. As a group, we manufacture and supply 1 000 000 axles per year to our customers.

We would like to inform you that in case of axles type VRB18, a problem may have occurred during the manufacturing process in April 2024. For this reason, we would like to arrange a recall for these axles. We have noticed the issue in September; therefore, we ask for a recall for axles produced between these months. The fault is classified as high risk even though not all axles may be affected.

While investigating this issue, we found that the fault could have occurred during the welding process. A technological failure was found at the robot welding so the penetration depth may not have been sufficient.

In order to avoid similar failures in the future, we made following measures:

Usage of forged stubs: we have been using forged stubs instead of the welded ones since August. We made this construction change still before the failure with the welded version had been revealed. The welding seam has been replaced by the forged part. We made this modification in order to increase safety by ensuring higher strength. The forged stubs are available in our inventory so they can be used immediately.

Assorting the welded stubs: we have made a physical inventory on our axles and components; we have assorted the stubs with welded construction in order these won't be delivered to customers. Production of new axles has already begun.

In cooperation with the trailer manufacturers, we have started to replace the axles. We are asking for your help to check your stocks with VRB 18 rigid axles and assembled trailers with this axle, and if you have a product with the bar code noted as in the attached inspection guide, please let us know. Autoflex-Knott team will contact you as soon as possible regarding the replacement.

We will do our best to prevent similar problems in the future.