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Ilion, NY
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LIMITED DISTRIBUTION

MODEL 700 TRIGGER ASSEMBLY REPLACEMENT PROGRAM

BACKGROUND

Centerfire rifle trigger assemblies contain a part referred to as a connector that releases the sear safety cam to fire the rifle when the trigger is pulled. This part fits on the forward edge of the upper portion of the trigger assembly. (See Exhibit A)

These parts are manufactured to Remington Arms specifications by Connecticut Spring, a long-time vendor that supplies about 120 other firearms parts for Remington firearms valued at about \$400M per year. A change was introduced to this vendor's process, without Remington's knowledge, in April, 1987 in reaction to what was erroneously interpreted by the vendor as a heat treatment specification alteration. This change caused the flanges on either end of the parts to bend outward. These warped parts were rejected at Ilion for nonconformance to physical specifications. Connecticut Spring subsequently attempted to salvage these rejected parts by bending them back to an acceptable profile, again without Remington's knowledge. However, because this straightening occurred after heat treatment, potential for stress cracks was introduced.

Starting in late July, 1987, some of these improperly manufactured parts were assembled into Remington centerfire rifles. This problem was not detected until December 11, 1987, when a gallery failure occurred during test firing. An immediate investigation was begun to evaluate the incident resulting in the discovery of Connecticut Spring's change.

A test program was designed to test the improperly heat treated and salvaged connectors. Five guns were prepared with connectors in which a discontinuity had been detected by magnetic particle inspection. Five guns with known good connectors were also prepared as control. Ten guns were fired 2,000 times without incident. Four guns were then prepared with severely cracked connectors and the tests repeated. Three guns successfully completed the test and one gun failed at 270 firings due to a broken connector.

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Broken connectors infrequently can get out of position and cause a malfunction by not supporting the sear safety cam. If this occurs, the firing mechanism may follow the bolt down during the loading cycle. If the safety is in the fire position, this is not a dangerous situation. If the safety switch is in the safe position and the broken connector is out of correct position, the firing mechanism would be supported by the safety. Moving the safety to the fire position could then cause the rifle to fire without the trigger being pulled. If this occurred and safe gun handling practices were followed, no injuries or property damage would occur. However, if the situation existed in the presence of poor gun handling, severe personal injury or property damage could result.

MAGNITUDE OF THE PROBLEM

Model 700 series rifles produced between July 29, 1987 and December 11, 1987 could be affected by these connectors. This includes M/700, M/78, M/40XB, M/40XC and Model Seven rifle models produced in some 150 different specifications (RAMACS). Actual quantities involved are as follows:

	<u>M GUNS</u>
Shipments	18.7
Warehoused Product	8.3
In-Process Inventory	7.0
Triggers Sold to Gunsmiths	.5
Triggers Used in Repairs	.5
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TOTAL POTENTIAL IMPACT	35.0

Because of the length of time between first use of the suspect connectors and discovery of the problem, distribution of the rifles to Remington's invoiced customers has been very broad, as shown on the following page:

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<u>CUSTOMER AND CATEGORY</u>	<u># SHIPPING LOCATIONS</u>	<u># GUNS SHIPPED</u>
LARGE RETAILERS		
K-Mart	8*	1,625
Walmart	347	1,487
Best	79	799
Gart Bros.	1*	305
Oshman's	3*	187
Udisco/Herman's	2*	107
Others	6	176
TOTAL LARGE RETAILERS	446*	4,686
HARDWARE CHAINS		
Cotter	13*	154
Coast-to-Coast	11*	96
Others	9*	161
TOTAL HARDWARE CHAINS	33	411
WHOLESALEERS		
John's	1	1,906
Jerry's, Bonitz, Simmons	6	1,087
Ellett Bros.	1	678
Wammes	1	610
OSHI	8	586
Sports South	1	572
R. Crawford	1	570
Munson	1	235
Greenblatt's	1	228
Lew Horton	1	225
Beikirch	1	209
Others	32	1,907
TOTAL WHOLESALEERS	55	8,709
DIRECT DEALERS	1,005	4,865
TOTAL SHIPMENTS	1,539*	18,617

Given the timing of this occurrence, it is likely that a significant portion of these guns have been sold through to end users or to a nondirect dealer, i.e., that the products impacted are no longer physically at the location shipped to by Remington.

*Excludes shipments to captive stores by firms' warehouse.

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