

PRESS RELEASE

AL-KO Vehicle Technology is recalling the K50 hitch ball (AL-KO ref. 1275100)

Information at <http://www.alko-tech.com/de/rueckruf-kupplungskugel-k50>

Kötz, March 2018

AL-KO Vehicle Technology announces that a potential product risk has been identified in the K50 **hitch ball (AL-KO ref. 1275100)**. There is a risk of tensile separation due to a breakage of the hitch ball if it is used for a D-value higher than 17.2. In concrete terms, this means that cars with a maximum permissible gross weight of up to 3.5 tonnes are generally not affected. For vehicles with a maximum permissible gross weight exceeding 3.5 tonnes, the D-value must be calculated according to the following formula:

$$D_{\text{req}} = g \frac{T \times R}{T + R}$$

D_{req} : Required D-value in kilonewtons (kN)

T: Technically permissible gross weight of the towing vehicle in tonnes (t)

R: Technically permissible gross weight of the trailer in tonnes (t)

G: Gravitational acceleration (9.81 m/s²)

T and R can be found in the vehicle documents of the towing vehicle with the K50 hitch ball. (Certificate of Approval Part 1 / Vehicle registration document) The **entered** weights/masses from the vehicle documents of the towing vehicle are decisive. Any smaller **actual** masses of the affected vehicle combination are **not relevant** for consideration.

If the resulting D_{req} value is greater than 17.2, the hitch ball must be removed.

Based on the findings and in order to avoid any risk of accident, **dealers** are requested to immediately stop selling and/or installing these products and to contact AL-KO Vehicle Technology. The contact details in Europe as well as other information can be found at <http://www.alko-tech.com/de/rueckruf-kupplungskugel-k50>.

Customers whose vehicles are affected by the recall based on the criteria described above, please contact AL-KO Vehicle Technology by e-mail K50@alko-tech.com, fax to +49 8221 / 97 - 8612 or by telephone to +49 800 255 6000 (free of charge within Germany) in order to coordinate the further procedure.

Please send media enquiries to:

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Founded in 1931, AL-KO Vehicle Technology is now a global technology company with around 30 sites in Europe, South America, Asia and Australia. A supplier of high quality chassis components for trailers, leisure vehicles and light commercial vehicles, AL-KO is synonymous with ergonomic and functional excellence, superb comfort as well as innovations to enhance road safety. The company specialises in sophisticated innovation processes and has received many awards for this.

AL-KO Vehicle Technology and Dexter Axle have been merged under DexKo since the end of 2015. This combination is the world's largest manufacturer of trailer axles and chassis components in the lightweight segment. DexKo Global Inc. has a turnover of more than US\$ 1 billion.