

# \$663 Million in Penalties for Maker of Guardrail

A Texas federal judge handed down a \$663 million judgment Tuesday against Trinity Industries, the guardrail maker accused of producing a faulty product that can jam and spear through vehicles, reports *The New York Times*.

The ruling in the court of Judge Rodney Gilstrap of United States District Court is the latest stage of a whistle-blower case filed by Josh Harman, a competitor. Harman said he discovered in 2011 that Trinity had made a critical change to the dimensions of its ET-Plus guardrail in 2005, but failed to tell federal regulators as required by law.

“The jury found the company liable for defrauding the Federal Highway Administration and awarded \$175 million, which, under the False Claims Act, was tripled to \$525 million.” *The Times* reports. Added-on penalties brought the judgment up to \$663 million.

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