



U.S. Department
of Transportation
**National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration**

ODI RESUME

Investigation: PE 04-003
 Prompted by: Fleet Complaint
 Date opened: 01/08/2004 Date Closed: 04/30/2004
 Principal Investigator: Sonny Murianka
 Subject: Brakes Fail to Release, Bus Jack-Knives

Manufacturer: New Flyer Industries LTD, New Flyer of America, Inc.
 Products: 1996-2003 New Flyer D60HF Articulated Buses
 Population: 1081

Problem Description: Brakes fail to release upon being deactivated by the driver. This results in the rear wheels of the forward section of the bus moving laterally or jack-knifing.

FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

| | ODI | Manufacturer | Total |
|---------------------|-----|--------------|-------|
| Complaints: | 55 | 55 | 55 |
| Crashes/Fires: | 5 | 5 | 5 |
| Injury Incidents: | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| # Injuries: | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Fatality Incidents: | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| # Fatalities: | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Other*: | 0 | 0 | 0 |

*Description of Other: Complaints are from two separate fleets

Action: This Preliminary Evaluation is closed. New Flyer has submitted a safety recall (04V-042) concerning this issue.

Engineer: Sonny Murianka Jwa
 Div. Chief: Richard Boyd
 Office Dir.: Kathleen C. DeMeter

Date: 04/30/2004
 Date: 04/30/2004
 Date: 04/30/2004

Summary: This investigation was prompted by a transit fleet, which informed ODI in November, 2003, that they were experiencing brake problems on their high floor articulating style buses. In the letter, the fleet stated that they had experienced over 50 incidents where the rear brakes failed to release during morning pullout from their parking location. They alleged that there had been three crashes resulting in property damage as the result of this sticking brake phenomenon. The crashes originate when the "middle" axle brakes fail to release and the rear engine vehicle "pushes" the middle axle resulting in a jack-knife condition of the articulated bus.

As a result of ODI's investigation, New Flyer has agreed to initiate a safety recall and correct this condition on all affected buses. The action taken by New Flyer is sufficient to resolve the issue raised by this investigation.

A copy of the recall is attached. Accordingly, this investigation is closed.

Handwritten note:
 2/16/04
 on
 5/1/04

DAV-042

PECA-003



Customer Service Head Office: 25 DeSable Street, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada R2J 4G5, Phone: 204-982-9400, Fax: 204-224-0248

January 26, 2004

Kenneth Weinstein
Associate Administrator for Enforcement
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
400 Seventh Street, S.W.
Washington, DC
20590

Dear Mr. Weinstein:

An issue relating to motor vehicle safety has been discovered in certain D60HF models of New Flyer buses sold within the 1996-2003 model year. Please find, enclosed, the 573 report attached as required in 49CFR Part 573. This 573 report relates to ODI Resume PE-04-003 opened on January 8, 2004. New Flyer and ArvinMeritor continue to work diligently to resolve the issue of centre axle lockup.

The attached 573 submission has already been faxed to the Office of Defects Investigation Division and forwarded to the Defects and Recall Information Analysis Division.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "S. Halbesma".

Scott Halbesma
Safety and Compliance Manager
New Flyer

Enc.

Safety Defect and Noncompliance Report Guide for Vehicles
PART 573 Defect and Noncompliance Report¹

On January 26, 2004, New Flyer [MFR] decided that a defect which relates to motor vehicle safety exists in the motor vehicles listed below, and is furnishing notification to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration in accordance with 49 CFR Part 573 Defect and Noncompliance Reports.

Date this report was prepared: January 28, 2004

Furnish the manufacturer's identification code for this recall (if applicable): Recall Number to be assigned by NHTSA

1. Identify the full corporate name of the fabricating manufacturer of the vehicle being recalled. If the recalled vehicle is imported, provide the name and mailing address of the designated agent as prescribed by 49 U.S.C. §30164.

New Flyer Industries Limited, 711 Kernaghan Avenue, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada, R2C 3T4


Identify the corporate official, by name and title, whom the agency should contact with respect to this recall.

Scott Halbesma, Safety and Compliance Manager, Fax No.: 204.224.0248, Ph: 204.934.4882

Name and Title of Person who prepared this report.

Same as above

Signed:

, 28-JAN-04

¹Each manufacturer must furnish a report, to the Associate Administrator for Safety Assurance, for each defect or noncompliance condition which relates to motor vehicle safety.

This guide was developed from 49 CFR Part 573, "Defect and Noncompliance Reports" and also outlines information currently requested. Any questions, please consult the complete Part 573 or contact Mr. Jon White at (202) 366-5227 or by FAX at (202) 366-7882.

I. Identify the Vehicle Models Involved in the Recall

2. Identify the Vehicles Involved in the Recall, for each make and model or applicable vehicle line (provide illustrations or photographs as necessary to describe the vehicle), provide:

New Flyer and ArvinMeritor are diligently analyzing the defect. Based on this analysis, a more detailed list of affected vehicles will be immediately submitted. Model Year 1996-2003 New Flyer Articulated 60' high floor buses appear to be affected.

II. Identify the Recall Population

3. Furnish the total number of vehicles recalled potentially containing the defect or noncompliance.

| Model | Year | Number of Vehicles Potentially Involved |
|-------|-----------|---|
| D60HF | 1996-2003 | 1081 |

Total Number Potentially Affected by the Recall: 1081

4. Furnish the approximate percentage of the total number of vehicles estimated to actually contain the defect or noncompliance: TBD

Identify and describe how the recall population was determined--in particular how the recalled models were selected and the basis for the beginning and final dates of manufacture of the recalled vehicles:

TBD

III. Describe the Defect or Noncompliance

5. Describe the defect or noncompliance. The description should address the nature and physical location of the defect or noncompliance. Illustrations should be provided as appropriate.

When the vehicle is parked for an extended period of time, such as overnight, the center axle wheel end brakes have a potential to not release. This 'stiction' has the possibility to lock a center axle wheel end while attempting to drive-away from a parked position.

Describe the cause(s) of the defect or noncompliance condition.

If the vehicle is parked for an extended period of time, the brake linings have a potential to adhere to the brake drums.

Describe the consequence(s) of the defect or noncompliance condition.

While driving away from a parked position, driver can lose control of the vehicle if condition is not detected.

Identify any warning which can (a) precede or (b) occur.

Rear (drive) axle can push the locked center axle into a 'jack-knife' situation. Driver may also perceive vehicle as having derated power while trying to pull away.

If the defect or noncompliance is in a component or assembly purchased from a supplier, identify the supplier by corporate name and address.

ArvinMeritor, 2135 W. Maple Road, Troy, MI 48064

Identify the name and title of the chief executive officer or knowledgeable representative of the supplier:

Niran Audimoolan, Project Manager Product Safety and Compliance

IV. Provide the Chronology in Determining the Defect/Noncompliance

If the recall is for a defect, complete item 6, otherwise item 7.

6. With respect to a defect, furnish a chronological summary (including dates) of all the principle events that were the basis for the determination of the defect. The summary should include, but not be limited to, the number of reports, accidents, injuries, fatalities, and warranty claims.

Customer reported multiple incidents of center axle lock-up to New Flyer. Three of the incidents have involved a crash resulting in property damage.

7. With respect to a noncompliance, identify and provide the test results or other data (in chronological order and including dates) on which the noncompliance was determined.

V. Identify the Remedy

8. Furnish a description of the manufacturer's remedy for the defect or noncompliance. Clearly describe the differences between the recall condition and the remedy.

Still being determined

Clearly describe the distinguishing characteristics of the remedy component/assembly versus the recalled component/assembly.

TBD

Identify and describe how and when the recall condition was corrected in production. If the production remedy was identical to the recall remedy in the field, so state. If the product was discontinued, so state.

TBD

VI. Identify the Recall Schedule

Furnish a schedule or agenda (with specific dates) for notification to other manufacturers, dealers/retailers, and purchasers. Please, identify any foreseeable problems with implementing the recall.

TBD

VII. Furnish Recall Communications

9. Furnish a final copy of all notices, bulletins, and other communications that relate directly to the defect or noncompliance and which are sent to more than one manufacturer, distributor, or purchaser. This includes all communications (including both original and follow-up) concerning this recall from the time your company determines the defect or noncompliance condition on, not just the initial notification. *A DRAFT copy of the notification documents should be submitted to this office by Fax (202-366-7882) for review prior to mailing.*

Note that these documents are to be submitted separately from those provided in accordance with Part 573.8 requirements.