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

MAR 0 6 2012

1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

Via USPS Certified Mail
Warranty / Compliance Office
AVX Corporation
One AVX Boulevard
Fountain Inn, SC 29644-9039

NVS-215aa
EQ12-001
11E-045

Re: Safety Recall 11E-045

Dear Sir or Madam:

The Office of Defects Investigation (ODI), Recall Management Division (RMD) is conducting an equipment query (EQ) investigation in relation to certain Sure Power, Inc. battery separators that the manufacturer has decided contain a safety related defect that could cause a vehicle fire. This investigation has been assigned the identification EQ12-001.

In a letter dated October 20, 2011, Sure Power, Inc. (Sure Power) notified the NHTSA that it had decided certain Sure Power battery separators contain a safety related defect. Sure Power stated that certain battery separators, shipped to various distributors and vehicle manufacturers between February 2009 and June 2011, may experience an internal circuit board capacitor failure. A circuit board capacitor failure could lead to overheating, smoke, and, possibly, a fire during or following use. NHTSA assigned recall number 11E-045 to this matter. A copy of the respective notification is enclosed for your information.

Sure Power reported to NHTSA that AVX Corporation (AVX) manufactured the defective capacitors used in its battery separators.

The purpose of this request is to obtain a list of purchasers that were sold these capacitors so they are made aware of this safety recall and are able to determine the need for any similar safety recall. Accordingly, we require the following information:

1. Provide a list of all customers that received the same or similarly affected AVX capacitors and provide their company name, line of business (i.e. vehicle manufacturer, equipment manufacturer, distributor, etc.), address, phone number, contact person, quantity sold to each, and sale date.

This letter is being sent to your company pursuant to 49 U.S.C. § 30166, which authorizes NHTSA to conduct any investigation that may be necessary to enforce Chapter 301 of Title 49. Your company's failure to respond promptly and fully to this letter could subject your company to civil penalties pursuant to 49 U.S.C. § 30165 or lead to an action for injunctive relief pursuant to 49 U.S.C. § 30163.

If your company claims that any of the information or documents provided in response to this information request constitute confidential commercial material within the meaning of 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(4), or are protected from disclosure pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1905, your company must submit supporting information together with the materials that are the subject of the confidentiality request, in accordance with 49 CFR Part 512, as amended (69 Fed. Reg. 21409 et seq; April 21, 2004), to the Office of Chief Counsel (NCC-111), National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Room W41-227, 1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E., Washington, D.C. 20590. Your company is required to submit two copies of the documents containing allegedly confidential information (except only one copy of blueprints) and one copy of the documents from which information claimed to be confidential has been deleted. Please remember that the word "CONFIDENTIAL" must appear at the top of each page containing information claimed to be confidential, and the information must be clearly identified in accordance with 5 U.S.C. § 512.6.

Your company's written response must be submitted to this office within 10 days of receiving this letter. In your response, please be certain to include a reference to this matter's identification number which is EQ12-001.

If you have any questions concerning this matter, please contact Alex Ansley of my staff at (202) 493-0481 or by e-mail at alexander.ansley@dot.gov. Response submissions may be made by US Mail, fax (202) 366-7882, or e-mail rmd.odi@dot.gov.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Timian
Chief, Recall Management Division
Office of Defects Investigation
Enforcement

Enclosure

11E-045
(4 pages)

Ellisville, MO 63021

RECEIVED
By Recall Management Division at 8:07 am, Oct 21, 2011

COOPER Bussmann

BY CERTIFIED MAIL AND ELECTRONIC MAIL (rmd.odi@dot.gov)

October 20, 2011

Mr. Claude H. Harris
Acting Associate Administrator for Enforcement
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Mr. Harris:

The following information is submitted in accordance with the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's defect reporting regulations, 49 CFR Part 573.6.

Sure Power, Inc. has decided to voluntarily recall certain battery separators that were manufactured and shipped by Sure Power to authorized distributors and vehicle manufacturers from February 2009 through June 2011.

Product Identification

The recalled product is a battery separator designed for use in multi-battery applications as a solenoid priority system to protect the chassis charging system from excessive loading while allowing auxiliary batteries to charge. Most of these units were sold to distributors, while some were sold to the vehicle manufacturers listed in Attachment A for installation as original equipment.

The following part numbers and serial number ranges may be affected:

Model	Serial # Start	Serial # Stop
1314 (-B, BP-D)	09004545	11002845
1315 (-B, NM)	09002323	11001573
1318	09000274	11000192
1319	09000058	11000013
*Serial numbers are sequential by model number family.		

These products were manufactured by Sure Power. The capacitors used in these parts were supplied by:

AVX Corporation
One AVX Boulevard
Fountain Inn, SC 29644-9039

Cooper Bussmann
114 Old State Road
Ellisville, MO 63021

Recall Population
The recall population is approximately 14,990, which covers all of the units produced within the referenced production period and sold in the United States; however, this figure is over-inclusive and includes units that are not likely affected by the defect condition.

Description of Defect
Some of the subject units may experience an internal circuit board capacitor failure, which could lead to overheating, smoke and, possibly, a fire during or following use.

Chronology of Events
March 2011 - Report of thermal damage from an Australian aftermarket distributor. These failures were initially believed to be attributed to unique 4x4 applications and operating conditions in the Australian Outback.

June 15, 2011 – Report from a U.S. distributor indicating the battery separator had failed thermally in seven incidents. Analysis of two returned field units indicated that capacitors on the printed circuit board had cracked and shorted through thermo migration.

June 28, 2011 – Report of a vehicle fire from the commercial fleet referenced above. The initial report was that the fire was caused by the battery separator; however, a subsequent inspection revealed that the fire was not caused by the battery separator.

July 2011 – Based on the failures observed in the Australian market, a consumer recall campaign was initiated in that market. Sure Power subsequently notified the Consumer Product Safety Commission and initiated a campaign in the U.S. market.

September 13, 2011 - Report of a vehicle fire in Canada involving a vehicle equipped with a Sure Power battery separator.

September/October – Sure Power arranged for an inspection of the Canada vehicle.

October 7, 2011 - Inspection of the Canadian vehicle was inconclusive concerning the involvement of the battery separator, but the separator was noted as a *possible* cause.

October 13, 2011 – Sure Power decided, out of an abundance of caution, to conduct a safety recall in accordance with the Safety Act and 49 CFR Part 573 and 577.

To date, there have been no reported injuries resulting from this product issue.

Remedy Program
Sure Power will replace affected product with new product at no charge to the customer. Sure Power's direct customers in the aftermarket channel will receive written notification and copies of the Part 577 Owner Letter to disseminate to their customers. (As noted above, Sure Power's direct customers were previously notified of this issue, but Sure Power will initiate a new notification campaign in accordance with NHTSA's regulations.)

Cooper Bussmann
114 Old State Road
Ellisville, MO 63021

Part 577 Owner Letter and Dealer Bulletin

A draft Part 577 Owner Letter and a dealer bulletin will be submitted shortly. Sure Power is prepared to proceed with its customer notification program within five days after NHTSA's review and approval of the Owner Letter.

Please advise the undersigned of the campaign number assigned to this recall.

Sincerely,

James M. Henley
Director, Quality Assurance

cc: RosaMaria Villagomez, Esq. (Cooper US, Inc.)
Christopher H. Grigorian, Esq. (Foley & Lardner LLP)

Cooper Bussmann
114 Old State Road
Ellisville, MO 63021

Attachment A - OEM List

Vehicle Manufacturer	Units Shipped
Altec Industries	483
Executive Coach Builders	40
Terex Corp/Terex Telect Inc/Terex Utilities Inc.	11
Paccar/Kenworth	3
Lance Camper	2025
Utilimaster	8