U.S. Department of Transportation

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

ODI RESUME

OFFICE OF DEFECTS INVESTIGATION

NHTSA

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Investigation: EQ 14-012
Prompted by: 14E-018
Date Opened: 10/15/2014
Investigator: Cynthia Glass
Approver: Jennifer Timian
Subject: Throttle Pedal Springs May Fracture

MANUFACTURER & PRODUCT INFORMATION

Manufacturer: WILLIAMS CONTROLS, INC.
Products: Throttle Pedal Springs
Population: 4,960 (Estimated)

Problem Description: The throttle pedal springs may fracture causing a loss of vehicle control and an increased risk of a vehicle crash.

ACTION / SUMMARY INFORMATION

Action: This EQ investigation is Opened.

Summary:

On October 29, 2013, Prevost Cars, Inc. notified the NHTSA that it decided a defect exists in certain model year (MY) 2009-2010 H3-45 and MY 2009 H3-41, X3-45, XLII Converted Coach Shells and XLII-45 Entertainer Converted coach and MY 2008 H3-VIP coach shells. The mechanical springs manufactured by Williams Controls, Inc. (Williams) are used to return the accelerator pedal to idle after the driver lifts their foot off the pedal may break. If the springs break, the pedal may not return to idle once the driver lifts their foot off the pedal, increasing the possibility of a loss of vehicle control and the risk of a crash. This matter was assigned recall number 13V-532.

On April 21, 2014, Gillig LLC (Gillig) notified the NHTSA that it is recalling certain models of throttle pedal springs manufactured by Williams, Part Number (PN) 351298 or Gillig PN 51-19017-016, Williams PN 351571 or Gillig PN 51-19017-019, Gillig PN 45-35027-000. Gillig used the springs in a subassembly. The springs on the throttle used to return the throttle pedal may fracture prematurely due to stress risers originating from pinched or lapped material. If the springs fracture, this could cause loss of vehicle control and increase the risk of a vehicle crash. This matter was assigned recall number 14E-018.

Williams provided NHTSA with a purchaser list identifying the manufacturers that may have incorporated these throttle pedal springs into their vehicles. However, at this time, a Part 573 Report has not been filed by all of these potentially affected manufacturers.

The purpose of this EQ investigation is to write to the companies that purchased Williams's throttle pedal springs, notify them of this defect, and ensure thorough safety recalls are conducted where appropriate.