



Bodies that work.
UCBC A Duff Holdings Company

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04V-155 ① of ④

March 31, 2004

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

The following information is submitted in accordance with the requirements of 49 CFR Part 573.5 as it applies to a defect relating to motor vehicle safety.

573.5(c)(1)
Union City Body Company LLC (UCBC)
301 South Jackson Pike
Union City, IN 47390-0190

573.5(c)(2)
UCBC Model Y01112 vehicles shipped between November 15, 2003 and March 19, 2004

All vehicles assembled for the third quarter 2003 FedEx fleet order built in the Union City, Indiana facility are suspect.

573.5(c)(3)
Three Hundred and twenty-one (321) vehicles potentially contain the suspect defect, however, only 84 units have been shipped and are in the hands of owners to date. The serial number range is 382112 through 383923.

573.5(c)(4)
Percentage of vehicles expected to contain the suspect defect is 25%.

573.5(c)(5)
Owner Operators reported that the rotary latches on the two side sliding doors and sliding partition door were failing. When the door is closed the rotary latch may not engage thus the door would remain in the unlatched open position. The only way for the owner to then lock the door would be to slide the door closed and to engage the manual lock plunger that is a separate system from the handle operated function of the rotary latch.

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573.5 (c)(6)

- 3/8/2004 UCBC's Customer Service & Warranty Department became aware of the failure of 8 rotary latches within a very short time frame and advised Engineering who in turn contacted the Kason, the vendor, and had failed parts from the field sent to them for analysis.
- 3/16/2004 Kason received the failed parts and examined the failed latches and determined that the pawl ratchet pin was coming loose from it's pressed fit location allowing the lock to fail. Looking at the failed pawls Kason noticed a thin crack emanating from the hole that the pin was pressed into. It is their belief that the crack occurred when the pin was pressed in, possibly due to the pin not being started perpendicular to the pawl. This crack would relieve the tension created from the press fit allowing the pin to work loose. The initial design requirement for pin in the pawl was 40 lb. push out resistance. This was increased to 200 lb. Kason felt that if an anaerobic wicking adhesive were applied to the pin, the pin would remain in place under normal operation of the latch. All of the parts treated with the anaerobic wicking adhesive exceeded the 200 lb. push out in qualifying tests. Presently the procedure for the pawl rework is to examine all pawls for a crack caused by the pin installation at the vendors facility, then to add the wicking adhesive before the pawl is installed in the latch.
- 3/18/2004 Cycle testing was initiated on the new design to confirm it's reliability.
- 3/24/2004 Parts subjected to the cycle test all passed and this new design will be the fix used in the new latches that will be manufactured to replace the old latches in the field. Further work will be undertaken to eliminate the pawl cracking due to the pin insertion and will be phased in as a product improvement when the design is proven.
- 3/26/2004 UCBC has determined that the condition described in this notification constitutes a product defect and that this defect is safety related.

573.5(c)(7)

Not applicable

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573.5(c)(8)

Union City Body Company LLC will initiate a voluntary owner notification and recall of all vehicles built at the Union City, IN facility containing the Kason rotary latch.

Union City Body Company LLC believes this issue has been covered under warranty to the vehicle owner and therefore repairs would have been made at no expense to the owner but will confirm this through warranty records.

The recall will consist of a replacement of all Kason rotary latches installed in the FedEx fleet production run.

The number, which has been assigned to this recall is **UCBC - 0401**.

The proper dealer bulletins and owner's notices will be mailed as per the regulations as soon as they can be prepared and approved by NHTSA.

Very Truly Yours

UNION CITY BODY COMPANY LLC



Stan R. Gornick, P. Eng.
Director, Quality & Compliance

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