

Safety Defect and Noncompliance Report Part 573

04V-162
(5 pages)

On March 31, 2004, in discussions with Ed Chan with the NHTSA, Accubuilt, Inc. determined that a voluntary recall will be required on several multi-passenger vans with quick release seat frames. Accubuilt has updated the design of quick release seat frame from the previous manufacturer to improve the product. This design has been tested and is compliant with Federal Motor Safety Standard 571.207. This voluntary recall exists in the motor vehicles listed below.

Accubuilt, Inc. 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: March 31, 2004

Full corporate name of the manufacturer of the vehicle being recalled:

Accubuilt, Inc.
2550 Central Point Parkway
Lima, Ohio 45804

Corporate official for agency contact:

Tim Lautermilch
VP of Operations
Phone: 419-222-8608
Fax: 419-222-7878
Email: tlautermilch@accubuilt.com

Name and Title of Person who prepared this report:

Thomas Kauble
Technical Director

Signed: Thomas P. Kauble

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DEFECTS
DIVISION

I. Identify the Vehicle Models Involved in the Recall

Below are the vehicles identified to be subject for this recall. Make, Model, Model Year, Accubuilt Body Number, and V.I.N. number are listed.

Body No	Model	Make / Model Year		Vin No
239353	Ford Van	E250	2003	1FTNE24L93HB09004
239367	Ford Van	E250	2003	1FTNE24L93HB09029
249110	Ford Van	E250	2004	1FTNE24L94HA09051

Descriptive information which characterizes/distinguishes the recalled vehicles from those model vehicles not included in the recall:

Determination of the vehicles involved in this recall consists of multi-passenger vans with one or more seats with quick release attachment systems. Accubuilt designs and builds each vehicle to a specific customer order and tracks the Accubuilt body number and V.I.N. to each respective order. To determine the vehicles involved in this recall a review of each and every vehicle order transpired to identify the vehicles meeting the above criteria. The potential vehicles affected by this issue are listed above.

II. Identify the Recall Population

3. Total number of vehicles potentially containing the defect or noncompliance.

Number of Vehicles	3
Model Year Potentially Involved	2002, 2003, 2004
Total Number Potentially Affected by the Recall:	3

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

The 3 identified potential suspect vehicles comprise approximately .01% of the total handicap accessible vans produced by Accubuilt on an annual basis.

III. Describe the Defect or Noncompliance

5. Accubuilt has not received any customer complaints, warranty complaints or field reports to indicate defects or noncompliance in the previous quick release seat system.

Identify any warning which can (a) precede or (b) occur.
No known at this time.

This issue is in a quick release seat frame assembly that is manufactured and installed into the vehicle at Accubuilt.

IV. Provide the Chronology in Determining the Defect/Noncompliance

Accubuilt, Inc. acquired this product line in August 2002. The carryover design for this quick release seat was used to manufacture the three vehicles identified above. Accubuilt decided to redesign and compliance test a quick release seat frame for product improvement. During this redesign period Accubuilt, Inc. did not manufacture any previous quick release seat systems.

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.
N/A

V. Identify the Remedy

8. Furnish a description of the manufacturer's remedy for the defect or noncompliance.

Accubuilt, Inc. has designed and tested a quick release seat frame system. This system will be sent to the consumer for retrofitting into the vehicle.

Identify and describe how and when the recall condition was corrected in production.
This redesign was implemented into production after completion of FMVSS 571.207 testing.

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.

Accubuilt, Inc. will notify all dealers by April 16, 2004. New seat systems will be sent to these dealers by April 30, 2004.

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.

Each 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) 366-5226 or by FAX at (202) 366-7882.



Accubuilt, Inc.
2550 Central Point Parkway
Lima, OH 45804

March 31, 2004

Accubuilt Dealer/Customer
1000 Dealer Way
Dealer, USA

DRAFT

Dear Customer,

As part of Vartanian's on-going commitment to quality we are sending you this notice in accordance with the requirements of the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act.

REASON FOR THIS VOLUNTARY RECALL:

Vartanian has updated and improved the quick release seat system and will be replacing the systems on some 2002, 2003, and 2004 model year multi-passenger vans with rear designated forward facing quick release seats. This improved design has been tested to be compliant to Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard No. 207, "Seat Systems".

WHAT WILL BE DONE:

To correct this issue one or more of the seats in the vehicle will need to be modified with the new quick release frame system. The labor and material to complete this change will be covered under your Vartanian warranty.

If you paid to remedy the issue addressed in this notice, you may be eligible for a refund. Please provide the paid invoice to an authorized dealer, or directly to Vartanian, attention Scot Andrews, Warranty Administrator. Fax #419.222.4450.

If any additional information is needed please contact Scot Andrews, Warranty Administrator at 419.998.8618 or toll free 888.242.4782.

WHAT YOU SHOULD DO:

Please contact Scot Andrews, Warranty Administrator, at 419.998.8618 or toll free 888.242.4782 or Fax # 419.222.4450 and identify the total number of quick release seats that you currently have in your vehicle. If you have sold or traded your vehicle, please let us know. If the vehicle has been leased federal regulations require that any vehicle lessor receiving this recall notice must forward a copy of this notice to the lessee within ten days.

Once a confirmation has been made on the delivery date of the replacement parts, Scot Andrews will contact you to schedule an appointment at a local Ford dealership or a qualified independent repair facility. Instructions and replacement parts for making this correction will be sent to the agreed upon dealer. The labor time necessary to perform this service correction is approximately 2 hours. Please ask your dealer or Scot Andrews if you wish to know how much additional time will be needed to schedule and process your vehicle.

After contacting your dealer, if you are still not able to have the safety defect remedied without charge and within a reasonable time, you may wish to write the Administrator, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 400 Seventh Street, SW, Washington, DC 20590 or call 1-888-DASH-2-DOT (1-888-327-4236).

We are sorry to cause this inconvenience; however, we have taken this action in the interest of your safety and continued satisfaction with our products.