

04V-543
(6 pages)

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

On November 12th, 2004, Orion Bus Industries decided that (a defect which relates to motor vehicle safety exits 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: November 12, 2004

Furnish the manufacturer's identification code for this recall (if applicable): _____

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.

Orion Bus Industries Ltd.
350 Hazelhurst Road
Mississauga, Ontario
L5T 4T8

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

Joe Labonte
Compliance and Safety Officer _____

Telephone Number: (905) 403-7832 ext. 3335 Fax No.: (905)403-8800

Name and Title of Person who prepared this report.

Joe Labonte
Compliance and Safety Officer _____

Signed: *J. Labonte*

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:

Make(s): Orion Model Years Involved: 2002 - 2004 Model(s): VII CNG

Production Dates: Beginning: Jan. 2002 Ending: Dec. 2004

VIN Range: Beginning: TBD Ending: TBD

Vehicle Type: Bus Bodystyle: All CNG

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

Only Orion Model VII CNG vehicles.

Identify the approximate percentage of the production of all the recalled models manufactured by your company between the inclusive dates of manufacture provided above, that the recalled model population represents. For example, if the recall involved Widgets equipped with certain items of equipment from January 1, 1996 through April 1, 1997, then what was the percentage of the recalled Widgets of all Widgets manufactured during that time period.

100%

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
VII	2002	258
VII	2003	240
VII	2004	47

Total Number Potentially Affected by the Recall: 545

4. Furnish the approximate percentage of the total number of vehicles estimated to actually contain the defect or noncompliance: 100%

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:

The quantity provided is for all produced buses of that model and fuel type in those years. All Orion VII CNG models sold to NYCTA (Order numbers 1132 and 1174) are included and are being address in a refit program managed by Orion.

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.

The thermal properties of the original exhaust blanket were insufficiently achieved with the component supplied.

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

The performance of the exhaust temperature and the exhaust blanket were incorrectly evaluated for the supplied blanket.

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

The exhaust blanket can be degraded and loose insulating value. Surrounding components can degrade. Surrounding components in the engine compartment can malfunction due to the effect on wires and hoses.

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

Periodic inspection can reveal that the blanket is degrading.

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

TBD

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

TDB

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.

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.

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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.

A replacement exhaust blanket with specifications that will meet the temperature and application will be provided.

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

A three-piece blanket is used in place of the two piece, having an inferior thermal application.

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.