

Safety Defect and Noncompliance Report Part 573

04 V-589
(2 pages)

On August 16, 2004 Accubuilt, Inc. was notified by Sure-Lok, Inc. of a defect in the Wheelchair Securement Retractor Assemblies that Sure-Lok, Inc. manufactured. These Wheelchair Securement devices were utilized by Accubuilt, Inc. in the manufacturing of mobility vehicles.

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: December 15, 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: Th. P. Kauble 12/15/04

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NHTSA

I. Identify the Vehicle Models Involved in the Recall

Below are the vehicle ranges identified to be subject for this recall. Make, Model, & Model Year are listed. Accubuilt Body Number and O.E.M. V.I.N. number ranges are listed. O.E.M. Vin numbers are not in sequential order.

Model	Make	Model Year	Body No Range	Vin No Range
Ford Van	E250/E350	2002	229101 – 229142	1FTNS24202HB65736 1FTNS24L92HB82415
Ford Van	E250/E350	2003	239101 – 239396	1FTNS24263HA11511 1FTSS34F03HA90839
Ford Van	E250/E350	2004	249101 – 249243	1FTNE24L64HA07193 1FTNE24WX4HA97068

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 all 2002, 2003, and 2004 model year multi-passenger vans equipped with Sure-Lok, Inc. Wheelchair Securement Retractor Assemblies with the known defect. 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 that were manufactured with Sure-Lok, Inc. defective Wheelchair Securement Retractor Assemblies. 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	501
Model Year Potentially Involved	2002, 2003, 2004
Total Number Potentially Affected by the Recall:	501

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

The 501 identified potential suspect vehicles comprise approximately 90% 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 in Wheelchair Securement Devices in the vehicles listed above. The Wheelchair Securement Devices are purchased components from Sure-Lok, Inc., 151 Industrial Parkway, Branchburg, NJ, 08876-3451, Contact Dana Yarnell, Quality Assurance Manager.

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

No known at this time.

IV. Provide the Chronology in Determining the Defect/Noncompliance

Accubuilt, Inc. was notified on August 16, 2004 by Sure-Lok, Inc. of this defect.

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.

Sure-Lok, Inc. will replace any defective Wheelchair Securement Devices with new non-defective Wheelchair Securement Devices.

Identify and describe how and when the recall condition was corrected in production.

On August 17, 2004 Accubuilt, Inc. performed an in house test as prescribed by Sure-Lok, Inc. on 100% of Wheelchair Securement devices affected in this recall. 0 Wheelchair Securement Devices were found to be defective per Sure-Lok, Inc's test procedure.

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. notified all customers between August 21st and August 23rd of the recall and informed them that this recall will be administered by Sure-Lok, Inc.

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

419.222.1501
419.222.4450 fax

Formerly S&S/Superior of Ohio, Inc.

Insert Date

Customer Name
Street Address
City, State, Zip Code

Insert VIN + Body Number

Dear Accubuilt Customer

This notice is being sent to you in accordance with the requirements of NHTSA and Motor Vehicle Safety Act.

Reason for this Notice: Sure-Lok, Inc., a manufacturer of wheelchair securement retractor assemblies, has determined that a defect which relates to motor vehicle safety could exist in the belts installed in your Accubuilt van.

The description of the defect is set forth in the attached Safety Bulletin. If the malfunction exists, the wheelchair may not be secured during a crash.

What Will Be Done: If you identify a defective retractor assembly, please contact Sure-Lok Customer Service at (866) 787-3565. The defective retractor should be returned to Sure-Lok as instructed. Sure-Lok will replace the defective part at no cost. (In the event you have already paid for a replacement of the defective part, Sure-Lok will reimburse you.)

Contacting Sure-Lok:
Sure-Lok, Inc.
151 Industrial Parkway
Branchburg, NJ 08876-3451
Tel (908) 231-1804
Fax (908) 231-6887
www.sure-lok.com

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

Sincerely,

Scot Andrews
Warranty Administrator

Attachment: Sure-Lok Safety Bulletin 08/04 (3 pages) ~ re NHTSA Recall #04E058