

# Equipment Safety Recall Quarterly Report Information<sup>6</sup>

Required per 49 CFR Part 573.6

Report Date: April 8, 2005

Calendar Quarter: First

Safety Recall Quarterly Report from 1/1/2005 through 3/31/2005

Manufacturer: Sure-Lok, Inc.

Report Author: Lynn Domalewski Phone: (908) 231-1800X128

Recall Subject: 8625-13 Retractor Spool

1. NHTSA Safety Recall Campaign Number: 04E058

Also, for completeness, if your company has assigned a code number to this campaign, please provide your code: \_\_\_\_\_

2. (a) The date notification to purchasers began: August 16, 2004

To our customers: August 21, 2004

(b) The date notification of purchasers was completed: On behalf of certain OEM's to their customers: September 30, 2004

3. The Total Number of Items of Equipment Involved: 300,000

The total number of items involved in the subject campaign (including all items sold or distributed to purchasers, dealers, distributors, and similar entities beyond the immediate control of the manufacturer/importer).

Number of Items Returned from Inventory or Remedied Prior to Sale: 0

Includes (a) the total number of items returned from Manufacturer, Distributor, Dealer or Retailer inventory or (b) otherwise remedied prior to sale to consumers.

4. (a) Total Number Inspected & Remedied: 41 + 69 (Last Report) = 110

Total number of items which were inspected and/or otherwise repaired or remedied.

vast majority inspected by OEM's

(b) Total Number Inspected & NOT REQUIRING REMEDY: and their customers did not require

Total number of items involved in the recall and inspected, but determined to NOT REQUIRE REMEDIAL or recall repair<sup>remedy</sup> work.

## 5. Items Determined to be Unreachable

Total Number Exported: 0

Total Number Stolen: 0

Total Number Scrapped: 0

Total Number Unable to Notify: 0

Total Number Otherwise Unreachable: 0

Describe Other: 0

<sup>6</sup>Any questions please contact Mrs. Kelly Schuler or Mr. Jon White at (202) 366-5227 or by FAX at (202) 366-7882.

Safety Defect and Noncompliance Report Guide for Equipment

PART 573 Defect and Noncompliance Report<sup>(1)</sup>

On May 20, 2005, Van-Cor Inc [MFR] decided that (a defect which relates to motor vehicle safety)(a noncompliance with Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard No. \_\_\_\_\_) exists in items of motor vehicle equipment 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:  
5/20/05

Furnish the manufacturer's identification code for this recall (if applicable):  
Specialty Mfg #05E032

1. Identify the full corporate name of the fabricating manufacturer/brand name/trademark owner of the recalled item of equipment. If the recalled item of equipment is imported, provide the name and mailing address of the designated agent as prescribed by 49 U.S.C. §30164.

Specialty Mfg  
10200 Pineville Rd  
Pineville N.C. 28134

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

Telephone Number: 732-266-8484 Fax No.: 732-805-9661

Name and Title of Person who prepared this report.  
Allison E. Fusco  
Adm Asst

Signed: Allison E Fusco

I. Identify the Recalled Items of Equipment

Specialty Mfg.  
STOP ARMS MODEL #5400

2. Identify the Items of Equipment Involved in this Recall, for each make and model or applicable item of equipment product line (provide illustrations or photographs as necessary to describe the item of equipment), provide:

Generic name of the item: SCHOOL BUS STOP ARMS

Make: Model: Specialty Mfg. Co.

Part Number: Size: 5400

Function: swing out STOP ARM

Other information which characterizes/distinguishes the items of equipment to be recalled:

Make: Model:

Part Number: Size:

Function:

Other information which characterizes/distinguishes the items of equipment to be recalled:

Make: Model:

Part Number: Size:

Function:

Model Years Involved: JAN - 2002 FEB - 2005

Other information which characterizes/distinguishes the items of equipment to be recalled:

Make: Model:

Part Number: Size:

Function:

Other information which characterizes/distinguishes the items of equipment to be recalled:

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. Identifying the Recall Population**

3. Furnish the total number of items of equipment recalled potentially containing the defect or noncompliance.

406

Number of Items

Model Year Potentially Involved

2002-2005

Total Number Potentially Affected by the Recall:

406

4. Furnish the approximate percentage of the total number of items of equipment 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 items of equipment: *SEE ENCLOSED LETTER FROM SPECIALTY*

**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.

Switch on STOP ARM HEATER

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

MICRO SWITCH

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

MAY CAUSE STOP SIGN TO OPEN OR CLOSE IN AN IMPROPER POSITION OR NOT TO OPEN AT ALL.

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

STOP ARM DOES NOT OPEN WHEN TURNED ON

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

Specialty Mfg.  
10900 Pineville Rd  
Pineville N.C. 28134

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

ERIC SWANGER  
ENGINEERING MANAGER  
Specialty Mfg. Co.

#### IV. Provide the Chronology in Determining the Defect/Noncompliance

See letter from Specialty

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.

See letter from Specialty

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.

See letter from Specialty

### 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.

RETROFIT THE STOP ARM IN THE FIELD (ORAT VANTON) WITH A REPLACEMENT SWITCH PACK THAT INCLUDES A NEW MICRO SWITCH THAT IS NOT SENSITIVE TO COLD WEATHER

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

WHEN THE NEW SWITCHES ARE INSTALLED AND PROPERLY WIRED THE STOP ARM SHOULD WORK ACCORDINGLY

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.

REMEDY WAS IDENTICAL TO THE RECALL REMEDY IN THE FIELD

### 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. LETTERS WILL BE SENT TO ALL DEALERS + PURCHASERS (END USERS) NOTIFYING THEM OF THE RECALL BY SPECIALTY. THERE MAY BE PROBLEMS WITH THE AMOUNT BEING PAID BY SPECIALTY TO REMEDY THIS RECALL. MOST MECHANICS DO NOT BILL BY MINUTES, BUT BY THE 1/2 HOUR MINIMUM.

### VII. Furnish Recall Communications

FOLLOW-UP LETTERS WILL BE FURNISHED QUARTERLY TO DEALERS + END USERS.

Mr. Ronald Medford  
Senior Associate Administrator for Enforcement  
NHTSA  
400 Seventh Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20590

May 6, 2005

Subject: Defect Information Report

This letter constitutes a defect information report being filed by Specialty Manufacturing Co. (SMC) pursuant to 49 CFR 573.6. SMC manufactures stop arms exclusively for the school bus industry. This report is being filed because SMC has determined that a safety related defect exist when stop arm manufactured by SMC between January 7, 2002 and February 25, 2005 are used during extreme inclimate/freezing wet weather conditions. This report is presented to comply with 49 CFR Par 573, Defect and Noncompliance Reports.

1. Equipment Manufacturer

Specialty Manufacturing Co.  
10200 Pineville Rd.  
Pineville, NC 28134  
704-889-7518  
Contact Person: Mr. Eric Swanger, Engineering Manager  
E-mail: [erics@specmfg.com](mailto:erics@specmfg.com)

2. Equipment involved in Notification

Specialty Manufacturing 5-series stop arms (identified by model number beginning with "5" such as model 5400) manufactured between January 7, 2002 and February 25, 2005 and sold to:

	<u>Total Number of arms</u>
(a) U.S. Bus	71
(b) Van-Con, Inc.	406
(c) Collins Bus Corporation	1909
(d) IC Corporation – Conway, AR	12693
(e) Blue Bird Corporation – Lafayette, GA	see total listed in Ft. Valley
(f) Thomas Bus	23603
(g) IC Corporation – Tulsa, OK	14143
(h) Blue Bird Corporation – Ft. Valley, GA	18270
(i) Mid-Bus	2666
(j) Liberty Bus	12

- (k) Les Entreprises Corbeil
- (l) Girardin Minibus

Additionally, a limited number of stop arms were sold through SMC distributor network for replacement sales.

**3. Total Number of Stop Arms Potentially Involved:**

In the suspect time period there were approximately 89,000 stop arms sold to the above listed manufacturers and to end users through the SMC distributor network.

**4. Percentage of Vehicles Estimated to be Affected:**

Given the nature of SMC business, it is impossible to determine an exact number of potentially affected vehicles, although that number is certainly less than 100%. SMC manufactures "catalog" products which meet the safety requirements of FMVSS standards. It is the choice of individual states as to which product is installed on their buses. In most cases, once SMC ships a product to an OEM, SMC has no way in which to track where that products end user may be.

**5. Description of Defect**

SMC has received reports that in extremely cold weather under certain conditions, the microswitches used internally to position the sign in the open and closed positions may malfunction, causing the sign to open or close to an improper position, or to not open at all. Also, it has been determined that the heater section may not be connected in the proper manner. To date, no accidents or injuries have occurred as a result of this phenomenon. In nearly 100% of the occurrences this phenomenon is intermittent, and ceases to exist once the vehicle is no longer exposed to the extremely cold weather.

**6. Chronological Summary of Principal Events Leading to this Report**

January 2002 – SMC begins using Arcoelectric microswitches in the manufacturing of 5-series stop arms.

Winter 2003 – SMC begins to see increase in requests from customers for optional microswitch heaters (p/n 05038K)

November 2004 – Bluebird issues Service Update informing customers to contact SMC for issues pertaining to stop arms not performing adequately during winter season.

January 25, 2005 – SMC contacted by Sonny Murianka of ODI at NHTSA concerning Bluebird bulletin.

February 25, 2005 – SMC discontinues usage of Arcoelectric switches.

April 12, 2005 – Representatives of SMC meet with NHTSA/ODI to discuss possible remedy situation and potential recall. ODI agreed with SMC proposal to conduct a regional recall.

### 7. Remedy Program

The solution is to retrofit the stop arms in the field with a replacement switch pack that includes switches that are not as sensitive to extreme cold weather and to inspect the heater for proper wiring installation. The replacement switch pack also includes a switch heater which will be wired during installation of the switch pack. This will be a regional recall, as discussed with ODI, and only stop arms used in the selected states will be remedied under this recall. States that will be excluded from this recall are Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, Texas, Arkansas, Oklahoma, Arizona, California, and Hawaii

### 8. Notices, Bulletins, and Communications

Because of the nature of SMC's business, the recall will follow a dual path: OEM's who purchased SMC 5-series stop arms will be notified, as well as SMC distributors who purchased 5-series stop arms for resale. SMC is in the process of developing the notice documents and a replacement procedure for the switch pack, as well as a reimbursement program for distributors who wish to perform their own retrofits. SMC will forward these documents to NHTSA as soon as possible. As discussed with ODI during our meeting at NHTSA, there will be two owner letters sent. Owner location will dictate which letter they will receive: one letter for the included states, the other letter for the owners not included in the recall (warm states), but advising them of the recall. SMC will work with each final stage manufacturer, in a combined effort, to draft the appropriate letters. SMC will investigate any claim from a fleet outside of the recalled states if they have experienced the problem and will make a case by case determination if that fleet is subject to the recall remedy.

We will start contacting the final stage manufacturers after all paper work has been acknowledged by NHTSA and a recall number has been assigned.

Thank you,

Eric D. Swanger, PE  
Engineering Manager  
Specialty Manufacturing Co.

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: These documents are to be submitted separately from those provided in accordance with Part 573.8 requirements.**

1. **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.**

***The Privacy Act of 1974 - Public Law 93-579, As Amended: This information is requested pursuant to the authority vested in the National Highway Traffic Safety Act and subsequent amendments. You are under no obligation to respond to this questionnaire. Your response maybe used to assist the NHTSA in determining whether a manufacturer should take appropriate action to correct a safety defect. If the NHTSA proceeds with administrative enforcement or litigation against a manufacturer, your response, or statistical summary thereof, may be used in support of the agency's action.***

VAN-CON, INC.  
123 WILLIAM ST.  
MIDDLESEX, NJ 08846  
732-356-8484  
732-805-9661 FAX

facsimile transmittal

To: Sonny Murianka Fax: 202-366-2331  
From: Allison Fusco Date: 6/27/05  
Re: \_\_\_\_\_ Pages: 5  
CC: \_\_\_\_\_

Urgent     For Review     Please Comment     Please Reply     Please Recycle

Sonny-

These are the letters from  
Specialty Mfg. wants sent to  
the customer. I am sure you have  
a copy of these. I told Dana that  
VIN # has to be on the card otherwise  
we have no way of tracking it.

Thank you

Allison