



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration**

400 Seventh Street, SW
Washington, DC 20590

DANIEL BENSMAN
FAULKNER, GARMHAUSEN, KEISTER & SHENK
COURTVIEW CENTER SUITE 300
100 SOUTH MAIN AVENUE
SIDNEY OH 45365

NVS-215
05V-021

Subject: ELDORADO/ARVIN-MERITOR/TRW/DEFECTIVE BALL SOCKET

Dear MR. BENSMAN:

This letter is to acknowledge your recent defect or noncompliance information report. Please review the following information to ensure that it conforms to your records.

Makes/Models/Model Years:

ELDORADO/ESCORT RE/2000-2001
ELDORADO/TRANSMARK RE/2000-2001

NHTSA Campaign Number: 05V-021

Recall Date: January 19, 2005

Components:

STEERING: LINKAGES: TIE ROD ASSEMBLY

Potential Number of Units Affected: 80

Summary:

CERTAIN TRANSIT BUSES EQUIPPED WITH ARVIN-MERITOR AND TRW 20-EDL BALL SOCKET ASSEMBLIES HAVE A LESS ROBUST BEARING DESIGN, WHICH LEADS TO HIGHER WEAR RATES AND MORE RAPID WEAR-OUT THAN PREVIOUS DESIGNS.

Consequence:

THIS PREMATURE WEAR-OUT OF THE BALL SOCKET ASSEMBLIES MAY RESULT IN THE SEPARATION OF THE TIE-ROD ASSEMBLY WHICH, IN TURN, COULD LEAD TO A LOSS OF CONTROL OF THE BUS AND POSSIBLE INJURY OF DEATH TO THE OCCUPANTS OF THE BUS IN THE EVENT OF SUCH CRASH.

Remedy:

DEALERS WILL REPLACE THE BALL SOCKET ASSEMBLIES. THE RECALL IS EXPECTED TO BEGIN MARCH 1, 2005. OWNERS SHOULD CONTACT ELDORADO AT 909-591-9557.

Notes:

CUSTOMERS CAN ALSO CONTACT THE NATIONAL HIGHWAY TRAFFIC SAFETY ADMINISTRATION'S AUTO SAFETY HOTLINE AT 1-888-327-4236.

Please provide the date of when the manufacturer became aware of the recall.

We have reviewed your proposed owner letter and it meets the requirements of Part 577. Copies of all notices, bulletins, dealer notifications, and other communications that relate to this recall, including a copy of the final owner notification letter and any subsequent owner follow-up notification letter(s), must be submitted to this office no later than 5 days after they are originally sent (if they are sent to more than one manufacturer, distributor, dealer, or purchaser/owner).

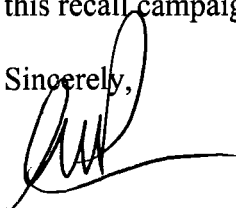
Effective October 21, 2004, ElDorado must provide an estimated dealer notification date as well as an owner notification date (month/day/year).

As stated in Part 573.7, submission of the first of six consecutive quarterly status reports is required within one month after the close of the calendar quarter in which notification to purchasers occurs. As stated in your report, the recall is expected to begin March 1, 2005. Therefore, the first quarterly report will be due by April 30, 2005.

Note: You will be assigned a NHTSA equipment number to cover the after-market parts. However, only one owner notification letter for both the vehicle and equipment recalls is necessary as you submitted.

Your contacts for this recall will be Pat Wallace or Delia Lopez, who may be reached by phone at 202-366-5232 or 202-366-9525 or by email at patricia.wallace@nhtsa.dot.gov or delia.lopez@nhtsa.dot.gov. We look forward to working with you for successful completion of this recall campaign.

Sincerely,



George H. Person
Chief, Recall Management Division