



U.S. Department
of Transportation

400 Seventh Street, SW
Washington, DC 20590

**National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration**

APR 20 2005

KEITH PFANNENSTIEL
VICE PRESIDENT OF ENGINEERING
OPTIMA BUS CORP
P.O. BOX 19140
WICHITA KS 67204-9140

NVS-215
05V-167

Subject: POWER STEERING PUMP HYDRAULIC LINE

Dear MR. PFANNENSTIEL:

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, as this is the information that will be made available to the public.

Makes/Models/Model Years:

OPTIMA/OPUS 29/2002-2005
OPTIMA/OPUS 34/2002-2005

NHTSA Campaign Number: 05V-167

Recall Date: April 19, 2005

Components:

STEERING:HYDRAULIC POWER ASSIST SYSTEM

Potential Number of Units Affected: 201

Summary:

ON CERTAIN TRANSIT BUSES WITH CUMMINS ISB02 ENGINES, THE HYDRAULIC LINE COMING OFF OF THE POWER STEERING PUMP IS RUBBING ON TOP OF THE AIR GOVERNOR.

Consequence:

THIS RUBBING MAY CAUSE THE HYDRAULIC LINE TO BE RUBBED THROUGH RESULTING IN A LEAK AND A LOSS OF HYDRAULIC FLUID. THIS FLUID COULD IGNITE IF IT COMES IN CONTACT WITH A HOT SOURCE.

Remedy:

DEALERS WILL MAIL A MODIFICATION KIT WITH INSTRUCTIONS ON HOW TO INSTALL A BRACKET AND CLAMP THAT WILL LIFT AND SECURE THE LINES AWAY FROM THE AIR GOVERNOR ELIMINATING THE POSSIBILITY OF CHAFFING. IF AN OWNER SO DESIRES, A DEALER CAN INSTALL THE BRACKET AND CLAMP. THE MANUFACTURER HAS NOT YET PROVIDED AN OWNER NOTIFICATION SCHEDULE. OWNERS SHOULD CONTACT OPTIMA AT 1-888-391-1777.

Notes:

OPTIMA RECALL NO. SAF 05004. CUSTOMERS CAN ALSO CONTACT THE NATIONAL HIGHWAY TRAFFIC SAFETY ADMINISTRATION'S AUTO SAFETY HOTLINE AT 1-888-327-4236.

Effective October 21, 2004, a manufacturer must provide an estimated dealer notification date as well as an owner notification date (month/day/year) when submitting a defect/noncompliance report (Part 573.6). Also, please provide us with a date of when the manufacturer became aware of the recall.

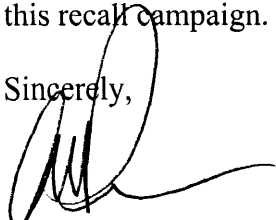
We have reviewed your proposed owner letter and it does not meet the requirements of Part 577.

- Please change the word "determined" to "decided" in the second paragraph.
- A sentence should be added concerning leased vehicles, i.e., Federal regulations require that any vehicle lessor receiving this recall notice must forward a copy of this notice to the lessee with ten days."
- The auto safety hotline number is 1-888-327-4236.

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), are to 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).

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