



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration**

400 Seventh Street, SW
Washington, DC 20590

June 10, 2005

ROBERT BIRDWELL
GILLIG CORPORATION
25800 CLAWITER ROAD
HAYWARD CA 94545

NVS-215
05V-271

Subject: FRONT AXLE ROD

Dear MR. BIRDWELL:

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:

GILLIG/29 FOOT LOW FLOOR/2004-2005
GILLIG/35 AND 40 FOOT LOW FLOOR/2004-2005

NHTSA Campaign Number: 05V-271

Recall Date: June 02, 2005

Components:

SUSPENSION: FRONT

Potential Number of Units Affected: 1,096

Summary:

ON CERTAIN TRANSIT BUSES, THE CAST CLAMP PORTION OF THE TORQUE ROD COULD CRACK UNDER INITIAL TORQUEING OF THE CLAMP FASTENERS RESULTING IN BREAKAGE OR CRACKS. CASTING POROSITY AND INCORRECT HEAT TREATMENT CAUSED POTENTIAL WEAKNESS IN THE CAST CLAMP PORTION OF THE TORQUE ROD.

Consequence:

THIS COULD RESULT IN LOSS OF VEHICLE CONTROL AND A CRASH COULD OCCUR WITHOUT PRIOR WARNING.

Remedy:

DEALERS WILL REPLACE THE CAST IRON TORQUE ROD CLAMPS WITH A FABRICATED STEEL CLAMPS. THE RECALL IS EXPECTED TO BEGIN DURING JUNE 2005. OWNERS SHOULD CONTACT GILLIG AT 510-785-1500.

Notes:

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

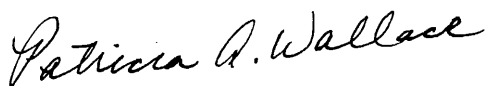
Effective October 21, 2004, a manufacturer must provide an estimated dealer notification date as well as an owner notification date (month/day/year) when submitting a defect/noncompliance report (Part 573.6).

You are required to submit a draft owner notification letter to this office no less than five days prior to mailing it to the customers. Also, 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).

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 during late June or early July 2005. Therefore, the first quarterly report will be due by October 30, 2005.

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,



for George H. Person
Chief, Recall Management Division
Office of Defects Investigation
Enforcement