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February 24, 2005

05U-080  
(3 Pages)

**VIA FACSIMILE AND  
CERTIFIED U.S. MAIL,  
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED**

Mr. George H. Person  
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration  
Office of Defects Investigation  
400 7<sup>th</sup> Street, S.W. NSA-11  
Washington, DC 20590

**Re: Defect and Non-Compliance Report**

Dear Mr. Person:

Our firm is general counsel for EIDorado National (California), Inc. ("EIDorado"), 9670 Galena Street, Riverside, California 92509. EIDorado National received notification from ArvinMeritor that certain tie rod clamps installed on ArvinMeritor tie rod assemblies may be defective. Based on the information provided by ArvinMeritor, it appears that the tie rod clamps supplied to ArvinMeritor by Urresko, s.a. de c.v. may crack as a result of the heat treat process used on such clamps. ArvinMeritor has already instituted a safety recall campaign in connection with this matter. The recall number assigned by NHTSA for ArvinMeritor's safety recall campaign is 04E-088.

Pursuant to Part 573 of Title 49 of the Code of Federal Regulations, we are hereby notifying the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration that certain buses manufactured by EIDorado contain the tie rod clamps that have been determined by ArvinMeritor to have a defect that relates to motor vehicle safety.


As more specifically set forth below, ArvinMeritor has agreed to conduct the recall campaign involving these defective tie rod clamps, including but not limited to providing notification to all of EIDorado's potential customers that are subject to the recall campaign, providing the necessary parts to repair the defective tie rod clamps, and filing the quarterly reports in connection with the recall campaign.

- A. Recall Population and Vehicle Identification. The defective tie rod clamps supplied by Urresko have been used on certain 2005 model year Axess buses manufactured by EIDorado during the period from November 2004 through February 2005. The total number of buses subject to this recall campaign is 24. Information relating to the buses subject to this recall campaign is set forth in the attached Exhibit "A."
- B. Description of Defect. All of the buses subject to this recall campaign contain the defective tie rod clamps supplied by Urresko. The heat treat process used on these clamps created a surface hardness that may lead to cracking of the tie rod clamp. The cracked clamp may cause a separation of the tie rod assembly, which could result in a loss of control of the bus and possibly an accident.
- C. Basis for Determining that a Defect Exists. EIDorado received notification from ArvinMeritor on January 21, 2005 that a potential defect with the tie rod clamps may exist.
- D. Remedying of Defect. As set forth in the notifications issued by ArvinMeritor in connection with recall campaign 04E-088, the tie rod clamps determined to be defective must be replaced. ArvinMeritor prefers that the bus owner or a recommended repair facility complete the remedy provided for under this recall campaign and submit a warranty claim to ArvinMeritor. However, if the owner is not able to perform the repair on its own or have a recommended repair facility complete the remedy, the owner can contact ArvinMeritor in order to make other arrangements to have the remedy completed. ArvinMeritor has agreed to replace the defective tie rod clamps without charge to the owners.
- In order for ArvinMeritor to remedy the defect referred to above, all of the owners of the buses sold by EIDorado that are subject to this recall campaign must be notified. As of this date, EIDorado has completed its obligation to provide ArvinMeritor with the names and addresses of the current owners of such buses. ArvinMeritor will implement the recall campaign in accordance with the procedures specified in recall campaign 04E-088.
- E. Owner Notifications. ArvinMeritor has agreed to provide the notification letters to the owners of the buses that are subject to this recall campaign in accordance with the procedures specified in recall campaign 04E-088.
- F. Quarterly Reporting Requirements. ArvinMeritor will be responsible for filing quarterly reports in connection with recall campaign 04E-088. Because the information included by ArvinMeritor in its quarterly reports will encompass the remedying of the EIDorado buses subject to this recall campaign, EIDorado will not file quarterly reports to avoid duplication.
- G. Campaign Number. EIDorado does not have an internal campaign number for this recall. EIDorado will use the recall campaign number assigned by NHTSA.

Mr. George H. Person  
February 24, 2005  
Page 3

The enclosed information should comply with the NHTSA regulations and satisfy the obligations of ElDorado with respect to this recall campaign. If you need any additional information regarding the participation of ElDorado in this recall campaign, please feel free to contact me at (937) 492-1271.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Daniel A. Bensman". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Daniel A. Bensman

dja

cc: ElDorado National (California), Inc. (via fax)  
Mr. John M. Garmhausen

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