

Safety Defect and Noncompliance Report Part 573

On April 29, 2005 Accubuilt, Inc. was notified by an independent dealer that a van manufactured by Accubuilt experienced a 'burning' smell while operating the mobility lift. Accubuilt, Inc. has determined that a voluntary recall will be required on several multi-passenger Ford vans with Diesel engines and dual batteries.

Accubuilt, Inc. 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: May 6, 2005

Full corporate name of the manufacturer of the vehicle being recalled:

Accubuilt, Inc.
2550 Central Point Parkway
Lima, Ohio 45804

Corporate official for agency contact:

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VP of Operations
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Name and Title of Person who prepared this report:

Thomas Kauble
Technical Director

Signed: Thomas Kauble

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(4 pages)

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Post-it® Fax Note 7671		Date	# of pages 4
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Co./Dept. N.H.T.S.A.		Co. ACCUBUILT, INC.	
Phone #		Phone # 419-222-8263	
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I. Identify the Vehicle Models Involved in the Recall

Below are the vehicles identified to be subject for this recall.

Body No	Model	Engine	Make	Model Year	Vin No
249184	Ford Van	6.0L Diesel	E350	2004	1FTSS31P94HB33920
249846	Ford Van	6.0L Diesel	E350	2004	1FTSS34P04HB55585
249192	Ford Van	6.0L Diesel	E350	2004	1FTSS34P14HB33918
249223	Ford Van	6.0L Diesel	E350	2004	1FTSS34P14HB35975
249150	Ford Van	6.0L Diesel	E350	2004	1FTSS34P34HA88514
249193	Ford Van	6.0L Diesel	E350	2004	1FTSS34P34HB33919
249224	Ford Van	6.0L Diesel	E350	2004	1FTSS34P34HB35976
249244	Ford Van	6.0L Diesel	E350	2004	1FTSS34P34HB42135
249841	Ford Van	6.0L Diesel	E350	2004	1FTSS34P34HB55581
249156	Ford Van	6.0L Diesel	E350	2004	1FTSS34P44HB10486
249807	Ford Van	6.0L Diesel	E350	2004	1FTSS34P54HA86960
249151	Ford Van	6.0L Diesel	E350	2004	1FTSS34P54HA88515
249225	Ford Van	6.0L Diesel	E350	2004	1FTSS34P54HB35977
249219	Ford Van	6.0L Diesel	E350	2004	1FTSS34P64HB05290
249154	Ford Van	6.0L Diesel	E350	2004	1FTSS34P64HB10487
249158	Ford Van	6.0L Diesel	E350	2004	1FTSS34P64HB10490
249220	Ford Van	6.0L Diesel	E350	2004	1FTSS34P64HB35972
249191	Ford Van	6.0L Diesel	E350	2004	1FTSS34P74HB35933
249161	Ford Van	6.0L Diesel	E350	2004	1FTSS34P74HB35978
249272	Ford Van	6.0L Diesel	E350	2004	1FTSS34P74HB55583
249142	Ford Van	6.0L Diesel	E350	2004	1FTSS34P84HB05288
249152	Ford Van	6.0L Diesel	E350	2004	1FTSS34P84HB10488
249830	Ford Van	6.0L Diesel	E350	2004	1FTSS34P84HB10491
249221	Ford Van	6.0L Diesel	E350	2004	1FTSS34P84HB35973
249806	Ford Van	6.0L Diesel	E350	2004	1FTSS34P94HA86959
249845	Ford Van	6.0L Diesel	E350	2004	1FTSS34P94HB55584
249157	Ford Van	6.0L Diesel	E350	2004	1FTSS34PX4HB05289
249153	Ford Van	6.0L Diesel	E350	2004	1FTSS34PX4HB10489
249155	Ford Van	6.0L Diesel	E350	2004	1FTSS34PX4HB10492
259121	Ford Van	6.0L Diesel	E350	2005	1FTSS34P25HA02630
259101	Ford Van	6.0L Diesel	E350	2005	1FTSS34P25HA06838
259122	Ford Van	6.0L Diesel	E350	2005	1FTSS34P45HA02628
259803	Ford Van	6.0L Diesel	E350	2005	1FTSS34P45HA06839
259123	Ford Van	6.0L Diesel	E350	2005	1FTSS34P65HA02629
259134	Ford Van	6.0L Diesel	E350	2005	1FTSS34P55HA52342
259125	Ford Van	6.0L Diesel	E350	2005	1FTSS34P75HA52343
259135	Ford Van	6.0L Diesel	E350	2005	1FTSS34P05HA52345
259136	Ford Van	6.0L Diesel	E350	2005	1FTSS34P25HA52346
259107	Ford Van	6.0L Diesel	E350	2005	1FTSS34P95HA52344
259203	Ford Van	6.0L Diesel	E350	2005	1FTSS34P25HA61130
259226	Ford Van	6.0L Diesel	E350	2005	1FTSS34P45HA61131
259207	Ford Van	6.0L Diesel	E350	2005	1FTSS34P85HA61133
259150	Ford Van	6.0L Diesel	E350	2005	1FTSS34PX5HA94571
259199	Ford Van	6.0L Diesel	E350	2005	1FTSE34P55HB32442
259200	Ford Van	6.0L Diesel	E350	2005	1FTSE34P75HB32443
259830	Ford Van	6.0L Diesel	E350	2005	1FTSS34PX5HA61134
259831	Ford Van	6.0L Diesel	E350	2005	1FTSS34P65HA61132
259832	Ford Van	6.0L Diesel	E350	2005	1FTSS34PX5HB09036
259833	Ford Van	6.0L Diesel	E350	2005	1FTSS34P65HB09034
259834	Ford Van	6.0L Diesel	E350	2005	1FTSS34P85HB09035
259308	Ford Van	6.0L Diesel	E350	2005	1FTSS34PX5HB49472

Descriptive information which characterizes/distinguishes the recalled vehicles from those model vehicles not included in the recall:

Determination of the vehicles involved in this recall consists of multi-passenger 2004 and 2005 Ford vans with Diesel engines and dual batteries. Accubuilt designs and builds each vehicle to a specific customer order and tracks the Accubuilt body number and V.I.N. to each respective order. To determine the vehicles involved in this recall a review of each V.I.N. transpired to identify the vehicles meeting the above criteria. The potential vehicles affected by this issue are listed above.

II. Identify the Recall Population

3. Total number of vehicles potentially containing the defect or noncompliance.

Number of Vehicles	51
Model Year Potentially Involved	2004, 2005
Total Number Potentially Affected by the Recall:	51

4. Furnish the approximate percentage of the total number of vehicles estimated to actually contain the defect or noncompliance:

The 51 identified vehicles comprise approximately .14% of the total handicap accessible vans produced by Accubuilt on an annual basis.

III. Describe the Defect or Noncompliance

5. Investigation into the problem determined that the defect exists in 2004 and 2005 Ford Diesel engine vehicles only due to the physical location of the dual batteries as supplied by the O.E.M. These batteries are located underneath the vehicle adjacent to the frame, which are exposed to environmental elements during normal operation of the vehicle. Accubuilt, Inc. adds a positive lead wire from the vehicle battery to the Mobility lift for operating power. The end connections for the added power wire can become corroded which can cause increased heat generation in the wire and melting of the plastic coating and/or plastic corrugated protective sheathing. In some cases the heat generation could potentially melt the wire to connector joint.

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

- 1) Corrosion of the end fitting on the positive lead wire
- 2) Melting of the plastic corrugated protective sleeve
- 3) Melting of the plastic wire coating

IV. Provide the Chronology in Determining the Defect/Noncompliance

Accubuilt, Inc. received the customer complaint on April 29th, 2005. Immediate investigation into the problem determined the defect to exist in 2004 and 2005 Ford Diesel Engine vehicles only due to the placement of the O.E.M. batteries.

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.

N/A

V. Identify the Remedy

8. Furnish a description of the manufacturer's remedy for the defect or noncompliance.

TBD

Identify and describe how and when the recall condition was corrected in production.

Ford Diesel Vans make up 0.14% of the annualized O.E.M. chassis that Accubuilt utilizes during the conversion process. All current Ford Diesel van orders were put on hold upon notice of this failure and will not be manufactured until the corrective action has been implemented.

Therefore, all production vehicles manufactured after April 29, 2005 will be corrected.

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.

Accubuilt, Inc. will notify all dealers by May 31, 2005.

VII. Furnish Recall Communications

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 that these documents are to be submitted separately from those provided in accordance with Part 573.8 requirements.

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.