

OSV-282
(8 pages)

Associate Administrator for Enforcement
National Highway Traffic Safety
Room 5326
400 Seventh Street S. W.
Washington, DC 20590

June 10, 2005

Subject: **PART 573—DEFECT AND NONCOMPLIANCE REPORT**
Vapor Bus International Push-rod 05E-030

Orion is submitting information regarding a safety defect of a component supplied by Vapor Bus International. The defect relates to entrance and exit doors installed in certain Orion transit buses.

Orion has received notification from Vapor Bus International, the supplier of the door mechanism, stating that a defect in the door connecting rod was discovered. There is no indication that this defect is related to any accidents, injuries, or warranty claims. As a result, Orion's Part 573 Report references the Safety Defect Report submitted by Vapor Bus International. Orion is not administrating a recall or completion reports for a recall. Vapor Bus International, the equipment manufacturer, is administrating all matters regarding this recall.

I have enclosed our data recorded as outlined in the 49 CFR Part 573.6. Should you have any questions or wish to discuss this matter further, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Joe Labonte
Compliance and Safety Officer
Member of American Society of Safety Engineers
(905) 403-7807

Attached:

Orion- Part 573 Defect report
Vapor Bus International Defect Notification Letter – Door Operator Connecting Rod

cc Jim Pearson, Manager - Marketing & Business Development, Vapor Corporation

Safety Defect and Noncompliance Report Guide for Vehicles
PART 573 Defect and Noncompliance Report

On June 3, 2005, Vapor Corporation decided that a Safety Defect exists in the motor vehicles listed below, and 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: June 14, 2005

Furnish the manufacturer's identification code for this recall (if applicable): NHTSA 05E-030

1. Identify the full corporate name of the fabricating manufacturer of the vehicle being recalled. If the recalled vehicle is imported, provide the name and mailing address of the designated agent as prescribed by 49 U.S.C. §30164.

Orion Bus Industries Inc.

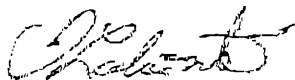
Identify the corporate official, by name and title, whom the agency should contact with respect to this recall.

Joe Labonte
Compliance and Safety Officer _____

Telephone Number: (905) 403-7807 Fax No.: (905)403-8808

Name and Title of Person who prepared this report.

Joe Labonte
Compliance and Safety Officer

Signed: 

I. Identify the Vehicle Models Involved in the Recall

2. Identify the Vehicles Involved in the Recall, for each make and model or applicable vehicle line (provide illustrations or photographs as necessary to describe the vehicle), provide:

Make(s): Orion Model Years Involved: 2001 - 2005 Model(s): VII

Production Dates: Beginning: October 2001 Ending: May 2005

VIN Range: Beginning: TBD Ending: TBD

Vehicle Type: Bus Bodystyle: VII

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

Identify the approximate percentage of the production of all the recalled models manufactured by your company between the inclusive dates of manufacture provided above, that the recalled model population represents. For example, if the recall involved Widgets equipped with certain items of equipment from January 1, 1996 through April 1, 1997, then what was the percentage of the recalled Widgets of all Widgets manufactured during that time period.

See Vapor Corporation Part 573 report NHTSA 05E-030

II. Identify the Recall Population

3. Furnish the total number of vehicles recalled potentially containing the defect or noncompliance.

Model	Year	Number of Vehicles Potentially Involved
VII	2001	3
VII	2002	403
VII	2003	434
VII	2004	192
VII	2005	60

Total Number Potentially Affected by the Recall: 1092

4. Furnish the approximate percentage of the total number of vehicles estimated to actually contain the defect or noncompliance: See Vapor Corporation Part 573 report NHTSA 05E-030

Identify and describe how the recall population was determined--in particular how the recalled models were selected and the basis for the beginning and final dates of manufacture of the recalled vehicles:

All Orion Model with supplier part numbers 50061448-00 and 50166538-00.

III. Describe the Defect or Noncompliance

5. Describe the defect or noncompliance. The description should address the nature and physical location of the defect or noncompliance. Illustrations should be provided as appropriate.

See Vapor Corporation Part 573 report NHTSA 05E-030

Describe the cause(s) of the defect or noncompliance condition.

See Vapor Corporation Part 573 report NHTSA 05E-030

Describe the consequence(s) of the defect or noncompliance condition.

See Vapor Corporation Part 573 report NHTSA 05E-030

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

See Vapor Corporation Part 573 report NHTSA 05E-030

If the defect or noncompliance is in a component or assembly purchased from a supplier, identify the supplier by corporate name and address.

Vapor Corporation

6420 W. Howard Street

Niles, IL

60714-3395

Identify the name and title of the chief executive officer or knowledgeable representative of the supplier:

Jim Pearson

Manager - Marketing & Business Development

IV. Provide the Chronology in Determining the Defect/Noncompliance

If the recall is for a defect, complete item 6, otherwise item 7.

6. With respect to a defect, furnish a chronological summary (including dates) of all the principle events that were the basis for the determination of the defect. The summary should include, but not be limited to, the number of reports, accidents, injuries, fatalities, and warranty claims.

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.

Orion became aware of the noncompliance by way of a letter to Orion dated June 3rd, 2005

See Vapor Corporation Part 573 report NHTSA 05E-030.

V. Identify the Remedy

8. Furnish a description of the manufacturer's remedy for the defect or noncompliance. Clearly describe the differences between the recall condition and the remedy.

See Vapor Corporation Part 573 report NHTSA 05E-030.

Clearly describe the distinguishing characteristics of the remedy component/assembly versus the recalled component/assembly.

See Vapor Corporation Part 573 report NHTSA 05E-030.

Identify and describe how and when the recall condition was corrected in production. If the production remedy was identical to the recall remedy in the field, so state. If the product was discontinued, so state.

See Vapor Corporation Part 573 report NHTSA 05E-030.

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.

See Vapor Corporation Part 573 report NHTSA 05E-030.

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.*

See Vapor Corporation Part 573 report NHTSA 05E-030.



Vapor Bus International

A Member of the WABCO Transit Group,
A Wabtec company

1010 Johnson Drive
Buffalo Grove, IL
60089-6918

Phone: 847.777.6400
Fax: 847.520.2222
www.wabtec.com

June 3, 2005

Sent Via Fax
905-403-8800

Mr. Joe Labonte
Compliance and Safety officer
Orion Bus Industries Ltd.
350 Hazelhurst Road
Mississauga, Ontario L5J 4T8
CANADA

SUBJECT: DOOR OPERATOR CONNECTING ROD – SAFETY-RELATED DEFECT

Dear Mr. Labonte:

Vapor Bus International has reached a preliminary conclusion that the two-piece curved connecting rods used in certain Vapor Door Operators (Base Plate Assemblies) manufactured between January 1, 1996 and November 30, 2004, may contain a safety-related defect. Specifically, when these connecting rods are used as an element of the door actuation linkage in conjunction with a Vapor medium pneumatic differential engine, the connecting rod may be subject to fatigue failure, resulting in bending or breaking of the connecting rod.

Vapor has notified the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration of the U. S. Department of Transportation (NHTSA) of this matter (NHTSA Campaign Number: 05E-030). Vapor will assist Orion Bus Industries in making any required notification to NHTSA and/or Transport Canada.

With your assistance, Vapor will notify all owners of affected {Company} vehicles manufactured between January 1, 1996 and December 31, 2004. Vapor will conduct a phased campaign to remedy the defect. The remedy consists of replacing the existing two-piece connecting rod with a one-piece connecting rod. Vapor will either conduct the replacement itself or provide a fixed payment for the vehicle owner to perform the replacement.

We request your assistance in providing a list of potentially affected Orion VII vehicles that were manufactured between January 1, 1996 and December 31, 2004, and utilized equipment containing the affected parts (see attachment for specific Vapor Part Numbers that incorporated the affected items and the Shipping Dates for those parts). The list can be by order or contract and should include a generic description of the vehicle, the number of vehicles in the order, the VIN's, the name and address of the vehicle owner, and the name of a contact person at the owner. This information will be used to inform the owners of this recall and to assure that the proper material is furnished for the remedy.

Should you have questions concerning this matter please contact either the undersigned or Geoff Colyer (416-903-2881).

Very truly yours,

James R. Pearson
Vice President, Marketing
847-777-6450
Attachment:

Vapor Bus International

ATTACHMENT

ORION BUS INDUSTRIES

VAPOR TWO-PIECE CONNECTING ROD – SAFETY-RELATED DEFECT

To the best of our knowledge and belief, the following part numbers furnished by Vapor Bus International and its predecessors contained the affected two-piece connecting rods.

	Base Plate Assembly	Total Quantity	Shipping Dates
	50061448-00	1,370	07/07/01 – 12/15/04
	50166538-00	239	05/31/02 – 08/06/04
	Total	1,530	

NOTES:

1. The affected Base Plate Assemblies were furnished only for the Orion VII.
2. Please identify which Base Plate Assembly was used for a specific bus.
3. In some cases both the front and rear doors of the vehicle had slide-glide doors. Please identify these vehicles.
4. Vapor Bus International has already completed remediation of this matter at the MTA/ New York City Transit (383 Buses) and is in the process of applying it to affected vehicles at the Toronto Transit Commission (TTC) (302 Buses).

06/02/05