

Safety Defect and Noncompliance Report Guide for Vehicles
PART 573 Defect and Noncompliance Responsibility and Reports¹

On June 8, 2005, Van-Con Inc. [MFR] decided that (a defect which relates to motor vehicle safety)(a noncompliance with Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard No. _____) 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 Responsibility and Reports.

Date this report was prepared: 6/30/05

Furnish the manufacturer's identification code for this recall (if applicable): 05E032

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.

Van-Con Inc

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

Allison E Fusco Adm Asst.

Telephone Number: 732-350-8484 Fax No.: 732-805-9661

Name and Title of Person who prepared this report.
Allison E Fusco
Adm Asst

Signed:

Allison E Fusco

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 Responsibility and Reports" and also outlines information currently requested. Any questions, please consult the complete Part 573 or contact Mr. George Person at (202) 366-5210 or by FAX at (202) 366-7882.

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): GMC, FORD, CHV Model Years Involved: 2002 Model(s): 2005

Production Dates: Beginning: 11/102 Ending: 3/1/05

VIN Range: Beginning: N/A Ending: _____

Vehicle Type: 25pass Bodystyle: SCHOOL BUS

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

The serial number located on stop arm

Make(s): GMC, FORD, CHV Model Years Involved: 2002 Model(s): 2005

Production Dates: Beginning: 11/105 Ending: 3/1/05

VIN Range: Beginning: N/A Ending: _____

Vehicle Type: 30pass Bodystyle: SCHOOL BUS

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

The serial number located on the stop arm

Make(s): _____ Model Years Involved: _____ Model(s): _____

Production Dates: Beginning: _____ Ending: _____

VIN Range: Beginning: _____ Ending: _____

Vehicle Type: _____ Bodystyle: _____

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

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.

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): GMC, FORD, CHV Model Years Involved: 2002 Model(s): 2005

Production Dates: Beginning: 1/1/02 Ending: 3/1/05

VIN Range: Beginning: N/A Ending: _____

Vehicle Type: 15 PASS Bodystyle: SCHOOL BUS

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

The serial number located on stop arm

Make(s): GMC, FORD, CHV Model Years Involved: 2002 Model(s): 2005

Production Dates: Beginning: 1/1/02 Ending: 3/1/05

VIN Range: Beginning: N/A Ending: _____

Vehicle Type: 16 PASS Bodystyle: SCHOOL BUS

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

The serial number located on stop arm

Make(s): GMC, FORD, CHV Model Years Involved: 2002 Model(s): 2005

Production Dates: Beginning: 1/1/02 Ending: 3/1/05

VIN Range: Beginning: N/A Ending: _____

Vehicle Type: 20 PASS Bodystyle: SCHOOL BUS

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

The serial number located on stop arm

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.

100%

II. Identify the Recall Population

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

Vehicles
Model FORD, GMC, CHEV. Year 2002-2005 Number of
400
Potentially

Involved

15 PASS - GMC, CHEV, FORD
16 PASS
20 PASS
25 PASS
30 PASS

Total Number Potentially Affected by the Recall: 400

4. Furnish the approximate percentage of the total number of vehicles estimated to actually contain the defect or noncompliance: 50%

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:

Van-Cor was notified by Specialty Mfg. on 6/8/2005. States that the microswitch located on the stop arm may not function do to cold weather. Specialty Mfg. determined that the series "5" stop arms with the serial # 5 480380-627609, might be affected. The dates range from Jan. 1, 2002 - March 1, 2005.

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.

Stop Arm series "5"
micro switch controlling opening &
closing of stop arm.

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

Micro switch did not work in cold weather
conditions causing the stop arm to not operate.

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

Stop Arms would not swing out or if
it did it would stay in open position

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

none

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

Specialty Mfg
19200 Pineville Rd
Pineville, N.C. 28134

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

Eric Swanger PE

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.

see letter from Specialty

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.

see letter from Specialty

V. Identify the Remedy

8. A description of the manufacturer's program for remedying the defect or noncompliance. This program shall include a plan for reimbursing an owner or purchaser who incurred costs to obtain a remedy for the problem addressed by the recall within a reasonable time in advance of the manufacturer's notification of owners, purchasers and dealers, in accordance with §573.13 of this part. A manufacturer's plan may incorporate by reference a general reimbursement plan it previously submitted to NHTSA, together with information specific to the individual recall. Information required by §573.13 that is not in a general reimbursement plan shall be submitted in the manufacturer's report to NHTSA under this section. If a manufacturer submits one or more general reimbursement plans, the manufacturer shall update each plan every two years, in accordance with §573.13. The manufacturer's remedy program and reimbursement plans will be available for inspection by the public at NHTSA headquarters.

*Retrofit stop arms in the field with a replacement switch pack (wired) supplied by Specialty. Specialty Mfg. will reimburse installers \$10.00 for each switch pack recalled. Customers will receive a postage paid card to send to Specialty Mfg. for reimbursement. For multiple buses information should be faxed to 704 889-2760
Attn: Customer Service*

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

Replace old micro chip with a new heated switch pack. Specialty Mtg. will replace at no cost

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

A cold sensitive micro switch pack part#(005178) replaces the old micro switch

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.

The production remedy was identical to the recall remedy in the field.

VI. Identify the Recall Schedule

10. 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.

Kits are available thru Specialty Mtg. to the bus owner.
The only problem that I foresee is the amount of \$10.00 reimbursement

see attached

VII. Furnish Recall Communications

11. 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 579.5 requirements.

(AY)

Kan-Cen Inc

6/27/05

To:

Re: NHTSA Recall #05E032 for Specialty Mfg. Co.

Specialty Mfg. Co. has issued a recall on all stop arms manufactured between January 1, 2002 to March 1, 2005. Please follow the instructions below on how to remedy this matter.

Description of Defect

Specialty Mfg. has received reports that in extremely cold weather under certain conditions, the microswitches used internally to position the sign in the open and closed positions may malfunction, causing the sign to open or close to an improper position, or to not open at all. Also it has been determined that the heater section may not be wired in the proper manner, causing it not to operate. To date, no accidents or injuries have occurred as a result of this. In nearly 100% of the occurrences this problem is intermittent, and ceases to exist once the vehicle is no longer exposed to the extremely cold weather.

Identifying Suspect Parts

The suspected stop arms are Specialty Mfg. S- series stop arms identified (by unit id tag) with the first number of "5" manufactured between January 7, 2002 and March 1, 2005, and bearing serial numbers in the range between 480380 and 627609. Stop arms should be monitored during extremely cold weather situations to determine if they exhibit this problem. If so, SPECIALTY MANUFACTURING should be contacted by one of the methods outlined below.

Remedy Program

The solution is to retrofit the stop arms in the field with a replacement switch pack that includes switches that are not as sensitive to extreme cold weather and to inspect the heater wiring for proper installation. If wiring is not in place, the replacement switch pack should be properly wired upon installation. For each stop arm experiencing the malfunction, Specialty will provide (free of charge) a service kit (part number 005178)

that includes a new heated switch pack, mounting hardware, installation instructions, and a service completion registration card. Installation of the switch pack and inspection of the heater wiring can be accomplished in 10 minutes. Specialty will reimburse installers of the switch pack \$10.00 for each pack installed. Reimbursement for installation will take place after the service registration card has been filled out and returned to Specialty Mfg. via postage paid service card. For customers repairing multiple buses, a faxed list of bus vin #'s and stop arm serial numbers will be accepted as an alternative to the postage paid service card. The fax should include the installers name, address and phone number in addition to bus information. If the reimbursement check is to be made out to someone other than the installer, this should be noted on the fax. The information should be faxed to (704-889-2760), ATTN: Customer Service. Parts that are removed during service should be discarded.

Availability of Service Kits

Service kits will be available 6/30/05 and may be obtained by contacting Specialty Mfg. by one of the following methods:

1. Contact Specialty Manufacturing customer service at 1-800-951-7867. The customer service representative will require the shipping information and stop arm serial number.
2. Online at www.specmfg.com/products_bus_1.html and select the page entitled "5 series stop-arm switch campaign". Enter shipping information and unit serial numbers. Service kits will be shipped within 2-3 business days.

For bulk shipment of service kits (for warehouse distribution) please contact the customer service department of Specialty Mfg.

We regret any inconvenience this situation may have caused you or your customers. If you need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Allison E. Fusco
Van-Con, Inc.