

05V-429 (3pgs)

Les Entreprises Michel Corbeil Inc.

PART 573 Defect and Noncompliance Report

This letter constitutes a defect information report being filed by Specialty Manufacturing CO. (SMC) & Les Entreprises Michel Corbeil Inc. (Corbeil) pursuant to 49 CFR 573.6. SMC manufacturers stop arms exclusively for the school bus industry & Corbeil a bus manufacturer (school and commercial). This report is being filed because SMC has determined that a safety related defect exist when top arm manufactured by SMC between January 7, 2002 and February 25, 2005 are used during extreme inclimate/freezing wet weather conditions. This report is presented to comply with 49 CFR Par 573, Defect and Noncompliance Reports.

1.A Equipment Manufacturer

Specialty Manufacturing Co.
10200 Pineville Rd.
Pineville, NC28134
704-889-7518
Contact Person; Mr. Eric Swanger, Engineering Manager

1.B Manufacturer End User / School Bus Manufacturer

Les Entreprises Michel Corbeil Inc.
830, 12^e Avenue
St-Lin-Laurentides, QC, Canada
450-439-3577
Contact Person; Mr. Serge Dery, Corbeil Service Dept .

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DEFECTS INVESTIGATION

Equipment involved in Notification

Specialty Manufacturing 5-series stop arms (identified by model number beginning with "5" such as model 5400) manufactured between January 7, 2002 and February 25, 2005 and sold to Corbeil . Corbeil installed these stop arms on buses manufactured between January 21, 2002 and July 2005. Corbeil school buses (models and years) involved :

CORBEIL SCHOOL BUS MODEL	YEAR	RECALL BUSES QTE	CORBEIL SCHOOL BUS MODEL	YEAR	RECALL BUSES QTE
F138DWS4	2004	79	G139DWS4UG	2001	3
F138DWS4	2005	77	G139DWS4UG	2002	18
F138DWS4CD	2002	1	G139DWS5UD	2002	23
F138DWS4CD	2003	5	G139DWS5UG	2002	6
F138DWS4CD	2004	1	G139DWS5UG03	2003	1
F138DWS4UD	2001	14	G139DWSM4CD	2002	19
F138DWS4UD	2003	6	G139DWSM4UD	2002	108
F138DWS4UD	2004	25	G139DWSM4UG	2002	14
F138DWS5	2004	34	G139DWSM4UG03	2003	18
F138DWS5	2005	19	G139DWSM5CD	2002	59
F138DWS5UD	2001	9	G139DWSM5UD	2002	286
F138DWS5UD	2002	2	G139DWSM5UG	2002	37
F138SW34	2005	207	G139DWSM5UG	2003	2
F138SWS324UD	2001	19	G139DWSM5UG03	2003	30
F138SWS324UD	2003	5	G139DWSM5UG03	2004	4
F138SWS324UD	2004	123	G139S3S5	2004	58
F138SWS324UD	2005	12	G139S3S5	2005	97
F138SWS4UD	2005	1	G139SWS4UD	2002	3
F138SWS5	2004	182	G139SWS4UG	2002	5
F138SWS5	2005	115	G139SWS4UG03	2003	5
F138SWS5CD	2002	10	G139SWS4UG03	2005	4
F138SWS5CD	2003	11	G139SWS5CD	2002	150
F138SWS5UD	2001	3	G139SWS5UD	2002	666
F138SWS5UD	2003	47	G139SWS5UG	2002	39
F138SWS5UG	2003	12	G139SWS5UG03	2003	30
F158DWS5	2004	92	G139SWS5UG03	2004	2
F158DWS5	2005	162	G159D5M5	2005	5
F158DWS5CD	2003	30	G159DWSM5UD	2002	21
F158DWS5CD	2004	58	G159DWSM5UG	2002	4
F158DWS5UD	2001	16	G159DWSM5UG03	2003	2
F158DWS5UD	2002	6	G159DWSM5UG03	2004	4
F158DWS5UD	2003	289	G159DWSM6CD	2002	31
F158DWS5UD	2004	177	G159DWSM6CG03	2004	1
F158DWS5UD	2005	26	G159DWSM6UG	2002	21
F158DWS6	2005	13	G159DWSM6UG	2003	3
F158DWS6CD	2002	5	G159DWSM6UG03	2003	4
F158DWS6CD	2003	10	G159DWSM6UG03	2004	2
F158DWS6CD	2004	21	I276DW12	2004	416
F158DWS6UD	2002	1	INC152S06CD	2003	5
F158DWS6UD	2003	16	INC193S08CD	2003	11
F158DWS6UD	2004	12	INC193S08CD	2004	4
F158DWS6UD	2005	10	INC236S10CD	2004	1
G139D3M4	2004	43	INC254S11CD	2003	7
G139D3M4	2005	3	INC276S12CD	2001	18
G139D3M5	2004	49	INC276S12CD	2002	201
G139D3M5	2005	23	INC276S12CD	2003	363
G139DWM5	2002	1	INC276S12CD	2004	354
G139DWS4UD	2002	30			

1. Total Number of Stop Arms Potentially Involved;

In the suspect time period there were approximately 5277 stop arms sold to Corbeil.

2. Percentage of Vehicles Estimated to be Affected

We estimated 5277 vehicles with these stop arms models identified by number beginning with "5".

3. Description of Defect

SMC 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 connected in the proper manner. To date, no accidents or injuries have occurred as a result of this phenomenon. In nearly 100% of the occurrences this phenomenon is intermittent, and ceases to exist once the vehicle is no longer exposed to the extremely cold weather.

4. Chronological Summary of Principal Events Leading to this Report

Summer 2005 - Representatives of SMC informed Corbeil about this recall.

5. 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 for proper wiring installation. The replacement switch pack also includes a switch heater which will be wired during installation of the switch pack. This will be a regional recall, as discussed with ODI, and only stop arms used in the selected states will be remedied under this recall. States that will be excluded from this recall are Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, Texas, Arkansas, Oklahoma, Arizona, California, and Hawaii.

6. Notices, Bulletins, and Communications

Corbeil's dealers and final users with 5-series stop arms will be notified. SMC/CORBEIL is in the process of developing the notice documents and a replacement procedure for the switch pack, as well as a reimbursement program for distributors who wish to perform their own retrofits. SMC/CORBEIL will forward these documents to NHTSA as soon as possible. There will be one owner letters sent. Owner location will dictate which letter they will receive; one letter for the included states, the other letter for the owners not included in the recall (warm states), but advising them of the recall. SMC/CORBEIL will work with each final dealer/end users, in a combined effort, to draft the appropriate letters.

We will start contacting the final end users after all paper work has been acknowledged by NHTSA and a recall number has been assigned.