

05V-530
(10 Pages)

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

On August 29, 2005, Audiovox Specialized Applications LLC and Santa Fe Vans [MFR] decided that (a defect which relates to motor vehicle safety)(a noncompliance with Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard No. 108 (SAE J1957) 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: August 29, 2005

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

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.

Shomco, Inc., dba Santa Fe Vans, located at 21240 Protecta Drive, P.O. Box 1633, Elkhart, IN 46515.

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

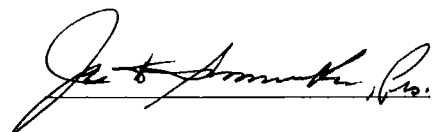
Joe A. Smucker, President

Telephone Number: 574-293-0585 Fax No.: 574-293-7723

Name and Title of Person who prepared this report.

Joe A. Smucker
President

Signed:



DEFECTS INVESTIGATION
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¹ 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/Chevrolet **Model Years Involved:** 2005 **Model(s):** Savana Van

Production Dates: Beginning: May 11, 2005 **Ending:** August 25, 2005

VIN Range: Beginning: 1GDFG15T451208941 **Ending:** _____

Vehicle Type: Van **Bodystyle:** Van

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

Conversion van modified by installation of the center high-mounted brake lamp and camera assembly, Model No. 3BLCHV

Make(s): GMC/Chevrolet **Model Years Involved:** 2005 **Model(s):** Savana Van

Production Dates: Beginning: May 11, 2005 **Ending:** August 25, 2005

VIN Range: Beginning: 1GDFG15T851240148 **Ending:** _____

Vehicle Type: Van **Bodystyle:** Van

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

Conversion van modified by installation of the center high-mounted brake lamp and camera assembly, Model No. 3BLCHV

Make(s): GMC/Chevrolet **Model Years Involved:** 2005 **Model(s):** Express Van

Production Dates: Beginning: May 11, 2005 **Ending:** August 25, 2005

VIN Range: Beginning: 1GBFG15T651266921 **Ending:** _____

Vehicle Type: Van **Bodystyle:** Van

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

Conversion van modified by installation of the center high-mounted brake lamp and camera assembly, Model No. 3BLCHV

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.

II. Identify the Recall Population

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

Vehicles Model	Year	Number of Potentially Involved
VCCBLCHV	2005	3

Total Number Potentially Affected by the Recall: 3

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

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 units distributed are being recalled. The vehicles were manufactured in early May through late August, 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.

The illumination of the center high-mounted stop lamp has tested below the required photometric regulations under FMVSS Number 108.

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

The housing lens of the center high-mounted stop lamp does not allow enough light to emit from the lamp.

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

The safety hazard is the decrease in light emitting from the center high-mounted stop lamp.

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

No warnings precede or occur.

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

The supplier is Audiovox Specialized Applications LLC located at 53200 Marina Drive, Elkhart, IN 46514.

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

Julia Willis, CFO of Audiovox Specialized Applications LLC

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.

06-06-05 Audiovox Specialized Applications LLC (ASA) was informed by American Technology Corporation (ATC), the owner of the recalled item of equipment, that the stop lamp had passed certification testing. Early July, 2005 (specific dated unknown), ASA was orally informed by ATC that the unit did not pass certification testing as previously reported. The lab performing the test informed ATC that the June test results mistakenly referred to a different product. ATC stated they would submit a unit to a second lab for testing. 08-10-05, ASA was informed that the second lab did not certify the unit. ASA requested copies of the actual test results to analyze the issues. 08-17-05, the official test results from the second lab were sent to ASA. A copy of the test results is attached. ASA ceased distribution of the product. Shomco, Inc., dba Santa Fe Vans, ceased installation of ASA's 3rd brake light with an observation camera.

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.

Shomco, Inc., dba Santa Fe Vans, has furnished ASA with a listing of all vehicles this product was installed. The listing includes the dealership names, addresses, and telephone numbers which ASA, on behalf of Santa Fe Vans, will use to contact each by certified mail, return receipt requested, of the product recall procedure which entails replacing the non-conforming unit with a new unit at no charge and allowing ½ hour labor reimbursement. If the vehicles were sold to a customer, ASA will contact the consumer via first class mail with instructions on where to take their vehicle for a replacement center high-mounted stop lamp.

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.

The replacement product is available. The unit passes all applicable certifications. Early October, 2005, ASA, on behalf of Santa Fe Vans, will replace any non-complying product with modified/approved product. The remedy product does meet FMVSS number 108 and any other applicable regulations.

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

The distinguishing characteristic of the remedy is the unit will pass all required testing.

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.

Production and distribution of the product has been discontinued at this time. ASA, on behalf of Santa Fe Vans, will begin the recall procedure outlined below upon NHTSA's approval of the documentation submitted.

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.

Santa Fe Vans has furnished ASA with a listing of all vehicles this product was installed. The listing includes the dealership names, addresses, and telephone numbers which ASA, on behalf of Santa Fe Vans, will use to contact each by certified mail, return receipt requested, of the product recall procedure including ASA's address to submit labor reimbursement claims. If the vehicles were sold to a customer, ASA will contact the consumer via first class mail with instructions on where to take their vehicle for a replacement center high-mounted stop lamp.

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.



21240 Protecta Drive
P.O. Box 1633
Elkhart, IN 46515
(574) 293-0585
FAX (574) 293-7723

Dear Chevrolet Van Owner:

This notice is sent to you in accordance with the requirements of the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act.

REASON FOR THIS RECALL

Audiovox Specialized Applications LLC ("ASA") on behalf of Santa Fe Vans has decided that the center high-mounted brake lamp and camera assemblies installed in your vehicle fail to conform to Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard No. 108: Lamps, Reflective Devices, and Associated Equipment. The applicable standard requires that a Photometry Test in certain test orientations produce the required Luminous Intensity. Recent retesting of the assembly indicated Luminous Intensity below the standard in most test orientations. The risk associated with noncompliance with this standard is the potential that following vehicles may not be fully informed of vehicle braking. While injury to vehicle occupants or others is not a direct potential risk, the noncompliance could increase the possibility of rear-end collisions that could injure vehicle occupants or others.

WHAT WE WILL DO

We will replace the center high-mounted brake lamp assembly without charge to you.

WHAT YOU SHOULD DO

Please contact your dealer as soon as possible to arrange a service date and so the dealer may order the necessary parts for the repair. Instructions for making this correction have been sent to your dealer and the parts are available. The labor time necessary to perform this service correction is approximately ½ hour. Please ask your dealer if you wish to know how much additional time will be needed to schedule and process your vehicle.

Your dealer is best equipped to obtain parts and provide service to ensure that your vehicle is corrected as promptly as possible. If, however, you take your vehicle to your dealer on the agreed service date, and they do not remedy this condition on that date or within three (3) days, we recommend you contact ASA customer service by calling 1-800-274-1886.

If you have replaced the center high-mounted brake lamp prior to receipt of this official recall notification, you may be eligible for reimbursement. For further information on reimbursement, please contact ASA customer service by calling 1-800-274-1886.

Please also note if you are leasing a Chevy van under this product recall, federal law requires you to forward this notice within 10 days to the lessee.

After contacting your dealer and ASA customer service, if you are still not able to have the safety defect remedied without charge and within a reasonable time, you may wish to write the Administrator, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 400 Seventh Street, SW, Washington, DC 20590 or call the Vehicle Safety Hotline 1-888-327-4236 (fTY:1-800-424-9153; or go to <http://www.safercar.gov>).

The enclosed owner reply card identifies your vehicle. Presentation of this card to your dealer will assist in making the necessary correction in the shortest possible time. If you have sold or traded your vehicle, please let us know by completing the postage paid reply card and returning it to us.

We are sorry to cause this inconvenience; however, we have taken this action in the interest of your safety and continued satisfaction with our products.



**AUTOMOTIVE
PRODUCTS**

21240 Protecta Drive
P.O. Box 1633
Elkhart, IN 46515
(574) 293-0585
FAX (574) 293-7723

SERVICE BULLETIN

TO: Santa Fe Van Dealers

The National traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act, as amended, provides that each vehicle which is subject to a recall campaign of this type must be adequately repaired within a reasonable time after the owner has tendered it for repair. Failure to repair within sixty (60) days after tender of a vehicle is prima facie evidence of failure to repair within a reasonable time.

If the condition is not adequately repaired within a reasonable time, the owner may be entitled to an identical or reasonable equivalent vehicle at no charge or to a refund of the purchase price less a reasonable allowance for depreciation.

To avoid having to provide these burdensome solutions, every effort must be made to promptly schedule an appointment with each owner and to repair their vehicle as soon as possible. As you will see in reading the attached copy of the letter that is being sent to owners, the owners are being instructed to contact ASA customer service if their dealer does not remedy the condition within three (3) days of the mutually agreed upon service date. If the condition is not remedied within a reasonable time, they are instructed on how to contact the National highway Traffic Safety Administration.

DEFECT INVOLVED

ASA has decided that the center high-mounted brake lamp and camera assemblies installed in your vehicle fail to conform to Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard No. 108: Lamps, Reflective Devices, and Associated Equipment. The applicable standard requires that a Photometry Test in certain test orientations produce the required Luminous Intensity. Recent retesting of the assembly indicated luminous Intensity below the standard in most test orientations. The risk associated with noncompliance with this standard is the potential that following vehicles may not be fully informed of vehicle braking. While injury to vehicle occupants or others is not a direct potential risk, the noncompliance could increase the possibility of rear-end collisions that could injure vehicle occupants or others.

We have advised that the center high-mounted brake lamp assembly will be replaced without charge to the owner.

VEHICLES INVOLVED

Involved are certain vehicles modified by installation of the center high-mounted brake lamp assembly Model No.: 3BLC I-I V.

Involved vehicles have been identified by Vehicle Identification Number Computer Listings. Computer listings contain the complete Vehicle Identification Number, owner name and address data, and are furnished to involved dealers with the campaign bulletin. Owner name and address data furnished will enable dealers to follow-up with owners involved in this campaign.

These listings may contain owner names and addresses obtained from State Motor Vehicle Registration Records.



21240 Protecta Drive
P.O. Box 1633
Elkhart, IN 46515

SAFETY RECALL NOTICE