

FAX NO. 732-805-9661

Van-Con Inc.

PO. BOX 237
123 WILLIAM STREET
MIDDLESEX, NEW JERSEY 08846-0237
732-356-8484



OSV-308

SAFETY RECALL NOTICE

Dear Van-Con school bus owner:

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

Based on information provided to us by Specialty Mfg. Co. (SMC), Van-Con, Inc. has decided that a defect which relates to motor vehicle safety exists in its 2002 through 2005 model year. 15,16,20,25 and 30 passenger school buses manufactured between January 1,2002 to March 1, 2005 and built on GMC, Chevrolet and Ford chassis. These buses are equipped with "5" series stop arms manufactured by SMC of Pineville, North Carolina. According to our records, you own buses covered by this recall.

Description of the Defect

In extremely cold weather under certain conditions, the microswitches used internally to position the sign in the open and closed position may malfunction, causing the sign to open or close to an improper position, or not to open at all. Also, it has been determined that the heater section may not be wired in the proper manner, causing it to not operate. Should the stop arm not perform properly, a child or pedestrian may be endangered by passing vehicles should the motorist not stop at correct location.

Identifying Suspect Parts

The suspected stop arms are Specialty Mfg. 5- series identified (by unit ID tag) with the first number of "5" manufactured between January 7,2002 and March 1 2005, and with serial numbers in the range between 480380-627609. If your bus is equipped with stop arms bearing these serial numbers SMC 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 sensitive to extreme cold weather and to inspect the heater wire for proper installation. If wiring is not in place, the replacement switch pack should be properly wired upon installation. 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. Reimbursement for reasonable charges 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 numbers and stop arm serial numbers will be accepted as an alternate to the postage paid service card. The fax should include the installer's name, address and phone number in addition to bus information. 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 are available 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 have trouble completing this recall without charge, you may contact Van-Con customer service at 732-356-8484 or contact NHTSA @ Vehicle Safety Hotline 1-888-327-4236; (TTY: 1-800-424-9153); or go to <http://www.safercar.com>

Federal law requires a leasee to forward this notice to the leasor within 10 days.

If you had the stop arm replaced prior to this notification due to the defect, you may be entitled to reimbursement. For further information, please contact Van-Con at 732-356-8484.

Sincerely,

Allison E. Fusco.