

From: Kelli A. Oberlin |
Sent: Monday, May 15, 2006 10:40 AM
To: Jsatosk@gulfstreamcoach.com; Spellum,
Cc: Wallace, Patricia <NHTSA>
Subject: Recall 06V-156 Gulfstream

Gentlemen,

Please be aware that Spartan Chassis Inc has issued a recall for steering gear supports on certain K2 and MM models. Please find attached the 573 document, the population and the customer notification letter. Please consider this your notification and take steps to inform NHTSA that you are aware. If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact me.

<<Recall Letter to Customers 06011 MH559 5-12-06.doc>> <<OEM Population Gulfstream.XLS>> <<573 SPEC 06011 submitted 5-8-06.xls>>

Kelli A. Oberlin
Product Assurance
Spartan Chassis Inc.
517 543 6400 Ext. 358

5/15/2006

**Spartan Chassis, Inc.**

1165 Reynolds Road - Charlotte, MI - 48813

573 DEFECT & NONCOMPLIANCE REPORT

Description:	Steering Gear Support Failure		
Internal Code:	SPEC 06011	Date of Report:	5/8/2006

Submitted to: Associate Administrator for Safety Assurance
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
400 Seventh Street, SW
Washington, DC 20590

Attn: Mrs. Pat Wallace, Office of Defects Investigation
Fax: (202) 366-7882

Manufacturer Identification: Spartan Chassis, Inc.
1165 Reynolds Road
Charlotte, MI 48813

Telephone: (517) 543-6400

Corporate contacts for recall information:

Customer Notification and Customer Service:	Report prepared by:
Wayne Ridge	Kelli A. Oberlin
Product Improvement Administrator	Product Assurance Administrator
Customer Service Operations	Product Assurance
(517) 543-6400, ext. 445	(517) 543-6400, ext. 358
Fax: (517) 543-7764	Fax: (517) 543-7729

Preparer's Signature: _____

PART 573 Defect and Noncompliance Report

I. IDENTIFY THE VEHICLE MODELS INVOLVED IN THE RECALL

2. Identify the Vehicles Involved in the Recall:

Make:	Spartan Chassis, Inc.		
Model:	MM, K2		
Model Years Involved:	1998		
Vehicle Type:	Motorhome		
Weight Range:	From GVWR:	31,000	To GVWR: 35,000
Weight Class:	From Class:	7	To Class: 8
Beginning VDM:	2/5/1998	Ending VDM:	6/5/1998
% Potentially Involved:	100%		

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

The models included are equipped with the following combination of part numbers

0469-KK1 Support bracket with a 0945-KK1 7.5" Pitman Arm

0886-KK1 support bracket with a 0945-KK1 7.5" Pitman Arm

II. IDENTIFY THE RECALL POPULATION

3. Furnish the total number of vehicles recalled potentially containing the defect or non-compliance

MODEL	MODEL YEAR	No. POTENTIALLY INVOLVED
K2	1998	19
MM	1998	235
TOTAL:		254

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

Approximate Defect Percentage: 100%

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:

The recall population was determined by querying for all units with the suspect support bracket and pitman arm combination with a 12K front axle rating.

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 steering gear support bracket has the potential to fail when subject to the repetitive forces of static steering conditions.

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

The cause of failure is attributed to fatigue.

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

The steering system ceases to function.

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

There is no warning.

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

Generic Component Name:	N/A
Supplier Part Number:	N/A
Spartan Part Number:	N/A
Supplier Corporate Name:	N/A
Address:	N/A
CEO or Knowledgeable Rep:	N/A

IV. PROVIDE THE CHRONOLOGY IN DETERMINING THE DEFECT/NONCOMPLIANCE

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

6. If defect, furnish a chronological summary with dates of all the principle events that were the basis for the determination of the defect. Include number of reports, accidents, injuries, fatalities, and warranty claims.

VIN	Documented Date	Complaint Description
4VZBN8194WC029173	4/25/2006	Steering gear support bracket broken
4VZBN8293WC029258	2/22/2006	Steering gear support bracket broken
4VZBN8296WC029206	11/18/2005	Steering gear support bracket cracked
4VZBN8291WC029209	7/11/2003	Steering gear support bracket cracked

7. If noncompliance, identify and provide the test results or other data in chronological order with dates on which the noncompliance was determined.

N/A

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.

Replace support bracket part #0469-KK1 and part #0886-KK1 with 1499-KK1-001.

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

The replacement steering support bracket is more robust.

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 recall condition was corrected when production ceased using the support bracket/pitman arm combination specific to the IFS 12K rating.

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 this recall.

Agenda for notification:

5-18-06- Expect notification to dealers, retailers and purchasers

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 concerning this recall from the time your company determines the defect or noncompliance condition on, not just the initial notification.

DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION	DATE AND MANNER SUBMITTED
Notification letter to other manufacturers	N/A
Draft Notification letter to purchasers	In Process
Press release (if applicable)	N/A
Recall Service Bulletin (RSB)	In Process
Notification Envelope	Pre-approved

All documents to be faxed to 202-366-7882, then mailed.

The manufacturer's campaign identification number if not identical to the number assigned by NHTSA.

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VINNUM	SALES ORDER	FPN	BDYBLD	VDMDE
4VZAR1793WC028059	28059	K211440-003	GULF STREAM COACH (C	2/9/1998
4VZBN1094WC028081	28081	MM11440-006	GULF STREAM COACH (C	2/12/1998
4VZBN1095WC028199	28199	MM11440-006	GULF STREAM COACH (C	2/12/1998
4VZBN1096WC028065	28065	MM11440-006	GULF STREAM COACH (C	2/13/1998
4VZBN1096WC028082	28082	MM11440-006	GULF STREAM COACH (C	2/13/1998
4VZBN109XWC028067	28067	MM11440-006	GULF STREAM COACH (C	2/16/1998
4VZAR1791WC028058	28058	K211440-003	GULF STREAM COACH (C	2/16/1998
4VZAR179XWC028060	28060	K211440-003	GULF STREAM COACH (C	2/17/1998
4VZAR1791WC028061	28061	K211440-003	GULF STREAM COACH (C	2/18/1998
4VZAR1792WC028103	28103	K211440-003	GULF STREAM COACH (C	2/26/1998
4VZAR1793WC028062	28062	K211440-003	GULF STREAM COACH (C	3/3/1998
4VZAR179XWC028110	28110	K211440-003	GULF STREAM COACH (C	3/26/1998
4VZBN1092WC028077	28077	MM11440-006	GULF STREAM COACH (C	3/27/1998
4VZBN1094WC028078	28078	MM11440-006	GULF STREAM COACH (C	3/27/1998
4VZBN1092WC028080	28080	MM11440-006	GULF STREAM COACH (C	3/29/1998
4VZBN1091WC028202	28202	MM11440-012	GULF STREAM COACH (C	3/29/1998
4VZBN1093WC028203	28203	MM11440-012	GULF STREAM COACH (C	3/29/1998
4VZBN1098WC028066	28066	MM11440-006	GULF STREAM COACH (C	3/30/1998
4VZBN1091WC028068	28068	MM11440-006	GULF STREAM COACH (C	3/30/1998
4VZBN1093WC028069	28069	MM11440-006	GULF STREAM COACH (C	3/30/1998
4VZBN1096WC028079	28079	MM11440-006	GULF STREAM COACH (C	3/30/1998
4VZBN1098WC028200	28200	MM11440-006	GULF STREAM COACH (C	3/30/1998
4VZBN109XWC028201	28201	MM11440-006	GULF STREAM COACH (C	3/30/1998
4VZAR1793WC028109	28109	K211440-003	GULF STREAM COACH (C	3/30/1998
4VZAR179XWC028107	28107	K211440-003	GULF STREAM COACH (C	3/31/1998
4VZAR1791WC028108	28108	K211440-003	GULF STREAM COACH (C	3/31/1998
4VZAR1791WC028111	28111	K211440-003	GULF STREAM COACH (C	3/31/1998
4VZAR1793WC028112	28112	K211440-003	GULF STREAM COACH (C	3/31/1998
4VZBN1092WC028287	28287	MM11440-012	GULF STREAM COACH (C	4/2/1998
4VZBN1090WC028286	28286	MM11440-012	GULF STREAM COACH (C	4/6/1998
4VZAR179XWC028303	28303	K211440-003	GULF STREAM COACH (C	4/10/1998
4VZBN1094WC028288	28288	MM11440-012	GULF STREAM COACH (C	4/13/1998
4VZBN1096WC028289	28289	MM11440-012	GULF STREAM COACH (C	4/13/1998
4VZAR1798WC028302	28302	K211440-003	GULF STREAM COACH (C	4/13/1998
4VZAR1793WC028305	28305	K211440-003	GULF STREAM COACH (C	5/5/1998
4VZAR1795WC028306	28306	K211440-003	GULF STREAM COACH (C	5/5/1998
4VZAR1797WC028307	28307	K211440-003	GULF STREAM COACH (C	5/5/1998
4VZAR1791WC028304	28304	K211440-003	GULF STREAM COACH (C	5/6/1998
4VZAR1796WC028105	28105	K211440-006	GULF STREAM COACH (C	5/14/1998



Date: May 19, 2006

Re: Notice of Recall Service Bulletin: **RSB06-260-002**

NHTSA # 06V-156

Dear Valued Customer,

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

Spartan Chassis Inc. has decided that a defect which relates to motor vehicle safety exists in certain Spartan Chassis MM and K2 models equipped with a 0945-KK1 pitman arm, manufactured from February 5, 1998 through June 5, 1998. These vehicles have the potential for the steering system to fail, which could result in a crash.

Please note: The (VIN) Vehicle Identification Number affected by this recall is identified on the address label of the envelope that contained this letter.

Corrective Action:

Your authorized service center will replace the steering gear support bracket and all affiliated hardware.

Labor Time:

The labor time required to replace the steering gear support bracket is **3.0 hrs.** Due to some service scheduling times, your service center may need your vehicle for a longer period.

What You Should Do:

Call an authorized service center without delay. **You do not need to call Spartan Chassis, Inc.** to find the facility most convenient to you. These facilities can be located on Spartan's website: <http://www.spartanchassis.com>. Please call immediately to have this repair completed.

Leased Vehicles: The lessor must notify the lessee by first class mail within ten (10) days from receipt of their owner notification letter from the manufacturer; both for the initial notification and all subsequent notifications.

Reimbursement:

If you had this repair performed before you received this letter, you may be eligible to receive reimbursement for the cost of obtaining a pre-notification remedy of the problem associated with this recall. For more information contact Spartan at 800-543-4277 - Option 1.

Reply Card:

Please fill out the enclosed prepaid postcard and mail it to us if you have changed your address, sold, or traded the vehicle.

If the authorized service center has failed or is unable to remedy the defect without charge and within a reasonable time, contact Spartan Chassis at 800-543-4277 - Option 1. You may also submit a complaint to the Administrator, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 400 Seventh Street SW, Washington, D.C. 20590 or call the Auto Safety Hotline at 888-327-4236 (TTY: 1-800-424-9153); or go to <http://www.safercar.gov> if you feel the manufacturer has failed or is unable to remedy the defect or noncompliance without charge.

We regret any inconvenience this service may cause you. Your safety and continued satisfaction with the quality and performance of your Spartan Chassis vehicle is of the utmost concern to us.

Best Regards,

Wayne Ridge
Product Improvement Administrator
Spartan Chassis, Inc.