

June 8, 2007

**VIA E-MAIL**  
**RECEIPT CONFIRMATION REQUESTED**

Mr. George H. Person  
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration  
Office of Defects Investigation  
400 7<sup>th</sup> Street, S.W. NSA-11  
Washington, DC 20590

07V-272  
(6 pages)

Re: Eldorado National – California Inc.  
Defect and Non-Compliance Report

Dear Mr. Person:

Eldorado National – California “Eldorado” has been notified by Mutual Propane concerning a safety related defect in certain propane tanks sold to Eldorado since 1998.

Pursuant to Part 573 of Title 49 of the Code of Federal Regulations, we are hereby notifying the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration that certain vehicles manufactured by Eldorado were built with the propane tanks that may contain the safety related defect.

- A. Recall Population and Vehicle Identification. The recall population includes Transmark RE and Escort RE-A Rear Engine Buses built by Eldorado between 1/01/1998 and 3/30/2003.  
The total number of vehicles subject to this recall campaign is 56.
- B. Description of Defect. Weld failures are occurring at the point where the connecting tubes meet the tank body. The weld failure may result in propane leakage which may result in an explosion or fire.  
  
Supplier: Mutual Propane 17117 S. Broadway Gardena, CA 90248-3115  
Supplier Contact: Tom Boerum, GM
- C. Basis for Determining that a Defect Exists. Mutual Propane advised Eldorado of its defect determination by letter dated May 23, 2007.
- D. Remedying of Defect. Eldorado will replace the tanks on the affected vehicles at no cost to the owner.
- E. Owner Notifications. Eldorado will notify the owners of the buses by letter beginning on June 15, 2007 pending NHTSA approval. A copy of the owner letter is attached along with the dealer repair procedures for your approval.

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- F. Quarterly Reporting Requirements. Eldorado will be filing quarterly reports in connection with this recall campaign.
- G. Campaign Number. Eldorado does not have an internal campaign number for this recall. Eldorado will use the recall campaign number assigned by NHTSA.

The enclosed information should comply with the NHTSA regulations and satisfy the obligations of Eldorado with respect to this recall campaign. If you need any additional information regarding the participation of Eldorado in this recall campaign, please feel free to contact me at 937-596-6849, Ext. 7363.

Sincerely,



David M. Mihalick  
Thor Industries  
Standards Compliance Manager

**DATE:** June, 2007

**TO:** Owner  
Address  
City, State Zip Code

**VIN:**

**SUBJECT:** NHTSA Recall No. XXX-XXXX

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

**REASON FOR THIS RECALL**

EIDorado National has been notified by Mutual Propane that a defect that relates to motor vehicle safety may exist in the propane tanks that are installed on your EIDorado National bus or buses. The propane tanks were installed on EIDorado National Transmark RE and Escort RE-A rear engine buses produced from January 1, 1998 to March 30, 2003. Specifically, the tanks may experience weld failures which could result in propane leakage from the tank. The leakage may result in a fire or possibly an explosion.

**WHAT WE WILL DO**

EIDorado National will replace the defective tanks in your buses at no charge to you.

**WHAT YOU SHOULD DO**

Please inspect the buses on the attached list immediately following the supplied procedures that are accompanying this letter. If your buses have the tanks as described in diagram "A" the tanks need to be changed. Contact EIDorado National immediately so tanks can be provided and replacement can be scheduled. If you buses have tanks as described in diagram "B" or "C" the tanks do not need to be replaced. Once you have determined which tank you have "A", "B" or "C" please fill out the attached sheet for each bus inspected and return it to:

EIDorado National – NHTSA Recall Report  
9670 Galena Street  
Riverside, CA 92509

If you do not feel comfortable doing this, please contact Robert Mendoza or Tony Wayne of EIDorado National at 909-591-9557 to arrange to have your bus inspected.

After contacting EIDorado National, and you are still having trouble getting your vehicle remedied or that there has been an unreasonable delay in securing repairs, you may submit a complaint to: Administrator, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 400 Seventh Street SW, Washington, DC 20590 or call the Vehicle Safety Hotline toll free at 1-888-327-4236 (TTY: 1-800-424-9153); or go to <http://www.safercar.gov>. Federal Regulations require any lessor receiving this letter to forward it to the lessee within 10 days.

If you have any questions concerning this recall campaign or need assistance concerning the scheduling of the remedy, please contact Robert Mendoza or Tony Wayne of EIDorado National at 909-591-9557. We are sorry to cause this inconvenience; however, we have taken this action in the interest of your safety and the continued satisfaction with our buses.

Sincerely,

Tony Wayne  
Vice President and General Manager

**Inspection Procedure for 14 x 14 x 84 and 14 x 14 x 96 Manifolded Tanks**  
May 9, 2007

**Identification:**

Early design (non-revised) tanks can be identified by the above measurements, and have a total of four (4) mounting/leg tabs. Early design tanks have no gussets (see illustration A.)

**Tanks identified as early design tanks should be inspected weekly until they are replaced.**

**Procedure:**

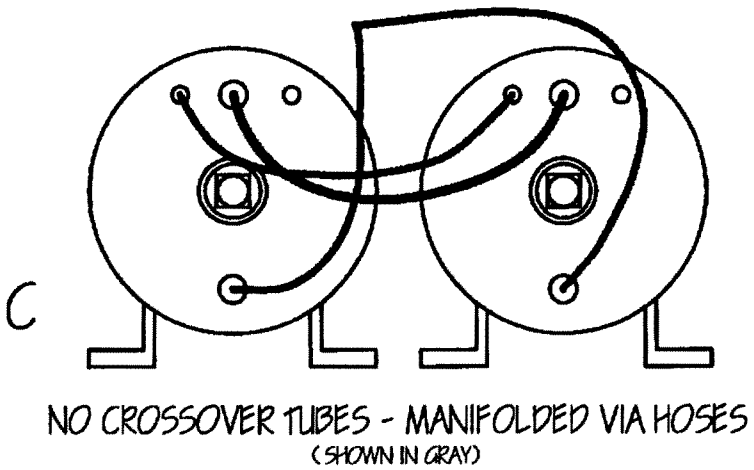
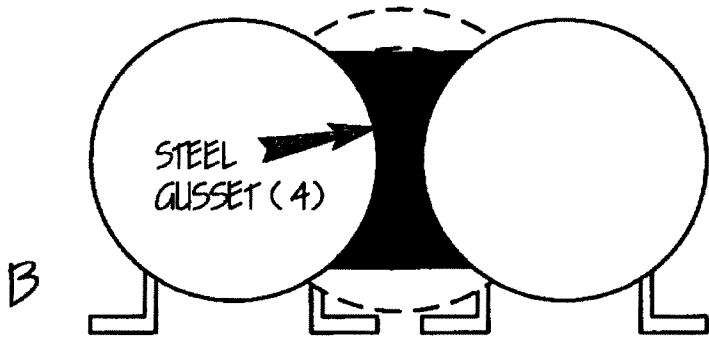
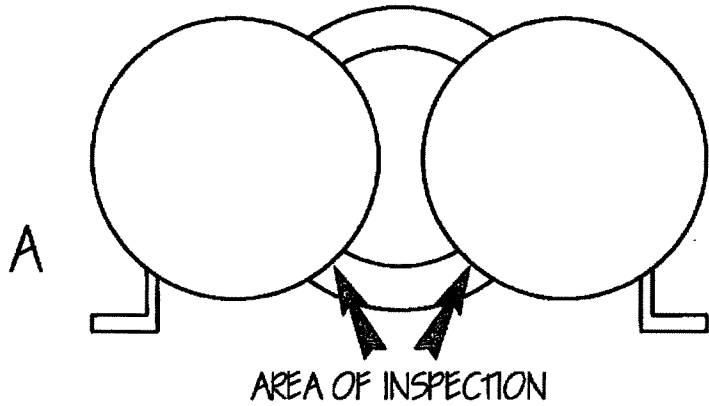
1. Raise the bus on a hoist.
2. Use a flashlight with beam focus ability. Examine the bottom crossover tubes at the weld-line along the top quadrant. (See illustration for inspection area).
3. The first indication is hairline paint system failure at the edge of the weld where the tank barrel and the bottom tube are joined.
4. The second indication (progression) is an absence of paint along the weld line.
5. Use a leak detection solution to check for leaks. Apply solution to the areas indicated in step 3. Look for bubbling of solution. Soapy water may be used if no leak detection solution is available.
6. **If leakage is detected, or if conditions described in step 4 are observed, the tank must be removed from service.** The tank should be evacuated (liquid and vapor) and remove the filling connection at the body. Plug unused hose and cap the fitting. Also disconnect the hose from the service valve (the hose that feeds the engine). Plug unused hose and cap the fitting. The vehicle may be run on the other propane tank while awaiting replacement.

**Tank evacuation and isolation of the tank must be performed only by personnel that are trained and familiar with LPG vehicle system maintenance and repair. Consult your propane supplier for assistance.**

Please call us if you have any questions; 310-515-0553 x 27. Roger Wheeler

# MUTUAL PROPANE

INSPECTION PROCEDURES FOR 14 X 14 X 84 AND 14 X 14 X 96  
MOUNTED - MANIFOLDED MOTOR FUEL CYLINDERS



ELDORADO NATIONAL SAFETY RECALL CAMPAIGN  
LPG TANKS – TRANSMARK RE AND ESCORT RE-A BUSES  
NHTSA RECALL NO. XXXXXXXX

Please complete the following information immediately after the bus subject to this recall campaign has been inspected or repaired. Then submit this form to ELDorado National in order to process the claim.

The Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) for the bus that has been inspected or repaired is as follows:

VIN: \_\_\_\_\_

1) This bus has tanks as described in diagram “B” or “C” and they do not need to be replaced.

Or

2) The LPG tanks have been replaced and completed by:

Service Center: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Company: \_\_\_\_\_

Please complete and sign this campaign claim form for each vehicle and return in the self-addressed envelope enclosed to:

ELDorado National  
NHTSA Recall Report  
9670 Galena Street  
Riverside, CA 92509

Phone Contact: 909-591-9557