

2007 AUG. - 8 P 2:00

Accubuilt, Inc.
2550 Central Point Parkway
Lima, OH 45804

DEFECTS INVESTIGATION
RECALL MGMT DIV.

419.222.1501
419.222.4450 fax

Formerly S&S/Superior of Ohio, Inc

07V-348
(9 Pages)



August 1, 2007

Mr. Daniel Smith
Associate Administrator of Enforcement, Office of Vehicle Safety
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
400 Seventh Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Mr. Smith,

Pursuant to F49 CFR part 573, attached please find the documentation describing a recall of Accubuilt Inc. modified Cadillac Funeral Hearse vehicles, along with related owner and dealer notification drafts. Any questions related to the attached information may be directed to me at Accubuilt, Inc. as noted below and in the accompanying 573 document. Thank you.

Stan Bucrek
VP Quality Assurance
Accubuilt, Inc.
2250 Central Point Parkway
Lima, OH 45807
419-998-8608



PART 573 Defect Report

On, July 23, 2007, Accubuilt, Inc. became aware of a potential issue which relates to motor vehicle safety as involves the item of motor vehicle equipment listed below, and is furnishing notification to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration in accordance with 49 CFR Part 573 Defect and Noncompliance Reports.

Report prepared: July 27, 2007

Manufacturer's identification code for this recall:

1. Full corporate name of the fabricating manufacturer/brand name/trademark owner of the recalled item of equipment:

Accubuilt, Incorporated Cadillac Chassis Hearses (marketed under Superior, Sayers and Scovill, Eureka and Miller-Meteor Brand names) shipped by Accubuilt from January, 2006 through July 12, 2007.

Corporate official whom the agency should contact with respect to this recall:

Stan Bucrek

Vice President, Quality Assurance

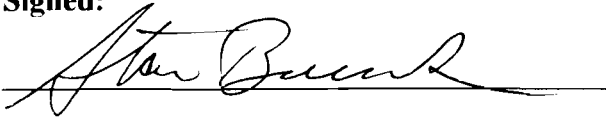
Telephone Number: 419-998-8608 Fax No.: 419-222-4450

Name and Title of Person who prepared this report:

Stan Bucrek

Vice President, Quality Assurance

Signed:



I. Identify the Recalled Items of Equipment

2. Identify the Items of Equipment Involved in this Recall

Generic name of the item: Fuel Filler Neck Assembly

Make: Cadillac Model: Hearse

Part Number 11412490 : Size: 1 1/8 inch dia. 24 inches long

Function: Connects fuel fill port at left rear quarter to fuel tank and vents air out during refueling.

Other information which characterizes/distinguishes the items of equipment to be recalled:

This formed hose and vent tube are "S" shaped in order to clear the casket load floor structure added to the vehicle for use as a hearse. Standard Cadillac vehicles and limousines do not have the "S" shaped hose and tube.

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.

100% of 2006 and 2007 Cadillac Hearses shipped by Accubuilt from December, 2005 through July 12, 2007

II. Identifying the Recall Population

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

Model	Year	Other Equipment	Number of Items Potentially Involved
Cadillac Hearse	2006		<u>676</u>
Cadillac Hearse	2007		<u>373</u>
Total Number Potentially Affected by the Recall:			<u>1049</u>

4. Approximate percentage of the total number of items of equipment estimated to actually contain the defect: 100%

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 items of equipment:

On July 11, 2007, Two (2) reports of fuel leaks while filling and “check engine” light on were received by Accubuilt’s warranty administrator regarding 2006 model Cadillac Hearses. Both dealers reported leaking filler hoses and cut vent tubes. Parts were returned to Accubuilt for analysis.

The vent tube cuts were the result of a cutting process defect occurring during filler neck modification. The process was analyzed and corrected on line on July 12, 2007.

Accubuilt’s hose supplier was called in to evaluate the leaking hose and also requested to test current production hoses in stock to determine their compliance to SAE J30R2, the applicable specification for fuel filler hoses. This hose and filler neck modification had been in place beginning with 2006 model change. Test results showed that the hoses passed all other applicable tests but failed the ozone exposure test and fuel resistance tests per SAE J30R2. Upon identification of the hose and vent tube defect, all vehicles produced and not shipped were held on property, inspected for vent tube cuts and repaired with a new hose, made from SAE J30R2 compliant material, verified via the same SAE specified tests which had confirmed the failure. All vehicles shipped after July 23, 2007 contain the new hose and cut-free vent tubes. Vehicles shipped prior to July 23, 2007 will be recalled for a hose change and vent tube inspection/replacement.

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 defect is a fuel filler neck hose assembly. The hose is date coded 06/07 or earlier and bears Accubuilt part number 11412490.

The hose is clamped to the fuel filler neck and the vent tube is brazed to it. The filler neck assembly is in the left rear quarter panel behind the fuel door and runs down to the left rear upper corner of the fuel tank, connected via a nipples and hose clamps. The filler neck hose assembly is accessible by removing a cover in the upper inboard portion of the left rear wheelhouse.

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

The cause is incorrect material composition used by the hose supplier, HBD/Thermoid, and improper cutting of a brazed vent tube assembly during product modifications at Accubuilt, Inc.

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

Inadequate ozone/fuel resistance, which could result in premature surface cracking and eventual fuel leakage and a cut in the vent tube which could result in a “check engine light due to an evaporative diagnostic system failure code being set

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

A check engine light from the fuel system leak and the smell of fuel or wet spot under the vehicle while filling the tank.

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

HBD/Thermoid, Inc.
1301 W. Sandusky Avenue
Bellefontaine, OH 43311-1082

Name and title of the chief executive officer:

Mr. Randy Greely
President and CEO

IV. Provide the Chronology in Determining the Defect/Noncompliance

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.

On July 11th, 2007, Accubuilt received notification from (2) dealers that (2) customers of a hearse had a “check engine” light on and fuel leaking during refueling. Pictures sent from the dealer showed cracks at the fuel tank end of the fuel filler hose at the clamp contact surface. Returned part examination indicated that the fuel vent tube had a cut in it and the fuel filler hose was cracked enough to cause a fuel leak. While investigation was ongoing, on July 12th, all vehicles produced and not shipped were held on property. On July 13th, all vent tubes on line were inspected and found to be seam/cut free. Additionally the process for vent tube modification was reviewed and precautionary measures were added to ensure tube integrity. New hoses made from certified material, were received at Accubuilt on July 24th and installed on production vehicles. Vent tubes were inspected and ensured to be free of cuts/seams. All held vehicles on Accubuilt property were then refitted with the new hoses, inspected and/or repaired to have seamless/uncut vent tubes. Affected vehicles shipped prior to July 12, 2007 will be recalled for a fuel filler neck vapor tube inspection and fuel filler hose change. Accubuilt began shipping vehicles with the new hose on July 24, 2007.

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.

7/23/2007 – Ozone and Fuel resistance test failures at HBD laboratories involving Accubuilt stock hoses of various date codes from 2006 and 2007 model year as well as HBD’s latest produced material. These tests confirmed that the base material was at fault, replicating the field failure.

7/24/2007 – All tests passed on reformulated HBD material constructed specifically for meeting SAE J30R2 requirements.

V. Identify the Remedy

8. Description of the manufacturer's remedy for the defect and differences between the recall condition and the remedy:

The remedy is to 1) replace the old hose with the newly formulated hose and 2) inspect the vapor tube for a seam at the bend and replace and the vent tube assembly if a cut or seam is visible.

The recalled hose will not always withstand ozone and fuel exposure and may crack and leak. The remedy hose withstands ozone and fuel exposure, maintaining the required integrity of the fuel storage system. The recall vent tube may leak. Remedy vapor tubes have no visible cut or seam and do not leak.

Distinguishing characteristics of the remedy component/assembly versus the recalled component/assembly:

The remedy hose has a printed date code of 07/07 (July, 2007) or later, and a (3) layered cross section showing an inner tube, knit reinforcement and outer cover. The recall hose has a date code of 06/07 or earlier and a single layer synthetic rubber tube cross section, with no reinforcement.

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 production correction is the same as the recall correction.

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 the recall.

Send dealer notification letter to all Accubuilt and Cadillac dealers – August 6, 2007.

Send owner letters to vehicle owners. – August 7 through August 15, 2007

Begin stocking replacement hoses at approx. 100 pieces/week for mailing out on request. – August 6, 2007

Complete replacement hose stock required quantity of 1046 pieces by – October 19, 2007.

Assemble repair teams and deploy them to key Accubuilt customer/dealer locations to expedite recall completion. – August 6, 2007 through November 30, 2007 or as required to complete most vehicles.

VII. Furnish Recall Communications

9. DRAFT copy of dealer and owner notification letters:

Owner letter attached.

Dealer notification letter attached.

August 6, 2007

To: All Accubuilt Dealers

Subject: Accubuilt Safety Recall # 07-002

Models: 2006 and 2007 Accubuilt Cadillac Hearses

ACCUBUILT (A Specialty Manufacturer of Funeral Coaches) IDENTIFIED A CONDITION WHEREBY THE FUEL FILLER NECK ASSEMBLY COULD LEAK FUEL. THIS CONDITION IS THE RESULT OF OUT OF SPECIFICATION PARTS PROVIDED BY OUR SUPPLIER. SHOULD THIS ASSEMBLY FAIL, THIS COULD RESULT IN FUEL LEAKAGE WHILE REFUELING AND INADEQUATE PROTECTION FROM FUEL SPILLAGE WHEN DRIVING.

CORRECTION:

1) REPLACE THE FUEL FILLER HOSE. ACCUBUILT P/N 11412490 AND 2) INSPECT THE VENT TUBE FOR CUTS/CRACKS AND REPLACE THE FILLER NECK ASSEMBLY IF NECESSARY. THE NEW HOSES AND FILLER NECK ASSEMBLIES ARE AVAILABLE FROM ACCUBUILT. THE NEW ASSEMBLIES WERE PUT INTO PRODUCTION AT ACCUBUILT ON 7/25/2007.

COMPLETION REPORTING AND REIMBURSEMENT:

Claims for vehicles which have been serviced must be submitted. Claims submitted will be used by Accubuilt to record recall service completions and provide dealer payment. by credit card.

ACCUBUILT WILL AUTHORIZE 1.0 HOUR FOR THIS LABOR OPERATION (PARTS AND INSTRUCTIONS BEING PROVIDED). ONCE REPAIRS HAVE BEEN COMPLETED PLEASE FAX OR E-MAIL COMPLETED REPAIR ORDERS TO THE ACCUBUILT WARRANTY ADMINISTRATOR INCLUDING THE VEHICLE VIN NUMBER.

UPON RECEIPT OF THE COMPLETED REPAIR ORDER ACCUBUILT WILL CONTACT THE DEALERSHIP FOR CREDIT CARD PAYMENT WITHIN 48 HOURS.

[continued – next page]

Accubuilt Safety Recall # 07-002 -- notice to dealers

DEALER NOTIFICATION & VEHICLE LIST:

Involved dealers: each dealer to whom involved vehicles were invoiced will receive a copy of this Dealer Recall Notification letter and a list of the involved vehicles by First Class Mail.

The Vehicle List is arranged in Vehicle Identification Number sequence. This list is for dealer reference in arranging for service of involved vehicles.

Owners known to Accubuilt are also listed. If dealers have delivered any of the units listed below, not showing owner information, please forward the owner information to the Warranty Administrator address above so that we may send them an owner letter.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____

Accubuilt will provide on-site service via portable hoist and technicians to expedite completion of this recall. Please contact the Accubuilt Warranty Administrator to schedule these resources to minimize impact on your customers.

Every effort must be made to promptly schedule an appointment with each owner and to repair their vehicle as soon as possible. If the condition is not remedied within a reasonable time, owners are instructed on how to contact the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

Derek Henry
Warranty Administrator
2550 Central Point Parkway
Lima, OH 45804
(419) 998-8618 Direct Phone
(888) 324-7895 Toll Free
(419) 222-4450 Fax

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2550 Central Point Parkway
Lima, OH 45804

419.222.1501
419.222.4450 fax

Formerly S&S Superior of Ohio, Inc.

Aug 07, 2007

Dear Cadillac Funeral Coach 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

Accubuilt, Inc. has decided that a defect which relates to motor vehicle safety exists in all 2006 and 2007 model year Cadillac Chassis Funeral Coaches. Due to parts received from our supplier which do not meet our specifications, these vehicles have a fuel filler neck assembly that could leak fuel. Should this assembly fail, this could result in fuel leakage while refueling and inadequate protection from fuel spillage when driving. Please note this recall involves Cadillac Funeral coaches only; no limousines are involved in this recall.

WHAT WE WILL DO

To correct this issue your Accubuilt or Cadillac Dealer will change the fuel filler hose or assembly. The labor and material to complete this change will be covered under your Accubuilt warranty. There will be absolutely no 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. Information regarding this recall is also available from the Accubuilt Warranty Administrator. The labor time necessary to perform this service correction is approximately one hour. Please ask your dealer if you wish to know how much additional time will be needed to schedule and process your vehicle. Accubuilt is also providing local service where possible, sending technicians out to expedite completion of this recall.

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SAYERS & SCOVILLE



SUPERIOR



ERLKA



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Accubuilt, Inc.
2550 Central Point Parkway
Lima, OH 45804

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Formerly S&S Superior of Ohio, Inc.

Accubuilt, your Accubuilt dealer, or Cadillac dealer are 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 (3) days, we recommend you contact the Accubuilt Warranty Administrator (Derek Henry) by calling 1-800-324-7895 or direct (419) 998-8618.

If after contacting your dealer and Accubuilt, Inc. you are still not able to have the safety defect remedied without charge and within a reasonable time, you may wish to write the Administer, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 400 Seventh Street, SW, Washington, DC 20590 or call the toll-free Vehicle Safety Hotline at 1-888-327-4236 (TTY: 1-800-424-9153); or go to

If you have sold or traded your vehicle, please let us know. We ask that you contact the Accubuilt Warranty Administrator below.

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.

Derek Henry
Warranty Administrator
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Lima, OH 45804
(419) 998-8618 Direct Phone
(888) 324-7895 Toll Free
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