



U.S. Department  
of Transportation  
**National Highway  
Traffic Safety  
Administration**

1200 New Jersey Avenue SE  
Washington, DC 20590

*November 10, 2008*

MR. KERRY LEGG  
SAFETY & COMPLIANCE MANAGER  
CUSTOMER SERVICES HEAD OFFICE  
NEW FLYER INDUSTRIES  
25 DEBAETS STREET  
WINNIPEG, MANITOBA  
R2J 4G5 CANADA

NVS-215dgl  
08V-586

SUBJECT: ALTERNATOR BEARING PREMATURE FAILURE

DEAR MR. LEGG:

This letter serves to acknowledge New Flyer Industries' notification to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) of a safety defect in the products described below for which a safety recall campaign shall be conducted pursuant to 49 U.S.C. § 30119.

Please review the following information to ensure that it conforms to your records as this information is being made available to the public. If the information does not agree with your records, please contact us immediately to discuss your concerns.

**Makes/Models/Model Years:**

NEW FLYER/D40LF/2004-2007

NEW FLYER/D40LFR/2005

NEW FLYER/D60LFR/2007-2008

**NHTSA Campaign Number:** 08V-586

**Mfg's Report Date:** November 4, 2008

**Components:** ELECTRICAL SYSTEM: ALTERNATOR/GENERATOR/REGULATOR

**Potential Number of Units Affected:** 1,001

**Summary:**

NEW FLYER IS RECALLING 1,001 MY 2004-2007 D40LF, MY 2005 D40LFR, AND MY 2007-2008 D60LFR TRANSIT BUSES EQUIPPED WITH CUMMINS ISM DIESEL ENGINES BUILT WITH CE NIEHOFF C701A OR C703A ALTERNATORS. FAILURE OF THE FORWARD ALTERNATOR BEARING MAY RESULT IN A DROP AND SEIZURE OF THE ROTATING ALTERNATOR SHAFT AND PULLEY. ONCE THE PULLEY IS STATIONARY, THE ALTERNATOR DRIVE BELT CONTINUES TO PASS OVER THE PULLEY CREATING HIGH QUANTITIES OF BELT DUST.

**Consequence:**

DUE TO THE VERY HIGH INTERNAL TEMPERATURES CREATED AT THE BEARING DURING SHAFT SEIZURE, THE BELT DUST MAY IGNITE, RESULTING IN AN ENGINE COMPARTMENT FIRE.

**Remedy:**

TO INCREASE THE POTENTIAL LONGEVITY OF THE ALTERNATOR BEARINGS, DEALERS WILL INCORPORATE A LOWER TENSION BELT TENSIONER AND A NARROWER BELT. TO PREVENT THERMAL IGNITION IN THE EVENT OF AN BEARING FAILURE, A LIGHTER DUTY, NARROWER BELT WILL SHRED RATHER THAN CONTINUE TO RUN OVER THE STATIONARY PULLEY. THE RECALL IS EXPECTED TO BEGIN DURING NOVEMBER 2008. OWNERS MAY CONTACT NEW FLYER AT 1-204-934-4803.

**Notes:**

NEW FLYER RECALL NO. R08-016. CUSTOMERS MAY ALSO CONTACT THE NATIONAL HIGHWAY TRAFFIC SAFETY ADMINISTRATION'S VEHICLE SAFETY HOTLINE AT 1-888-327-4236 (TTY 1-800-424-9153), OR GO TO [HTTP://WWW.SAFERCAR.GOV](http://www.safercar.gov).

We have reviewed your proposed owner notification letter and it meets the requirements of Part 577. However we would like you to change the word 'determined' to 'decided' in the first sentence of the second paragraph per the regulations.

Please provide the following additional information and be reminded of the following requirements:

Copies of all notices, bulletins, dealer notifications, and other communications that relate to this recall, including a copy of the final owner notification letter and any subsequent owner follow-up notification letter(s), are required to be submitted to this office no later than 5 days after they are originally sent (if they are sent to more than one manufacturer, distributor, dealer, or purchaser/owner).

New Flyer must file a sample of the envelope which you intend to use to mail the recall notice to owners. The words "SAFETY", "RECALL", "NOTICE" in any order must be printed on the envelope in larger font than the customers name and address.

As stated in Part 573.7, submission of the first of six consecutive quarterly status reports is required within one month after the close of the calendar quarter in which notification to purchasers occurs. Therefore, the first quarterly report will be due on or before 30 days after the close of the calendar quarter.

Your contacts for this recall will be Pat Wallace or Delia Lopez, who may be reached by phone at 202-366-5232 or 202-366-9525 or by email at [Patricia.wallace@dot.gov](mailto:Patricia.wallace@dot.gov), [Delia.lopez@dot.gov](mailto:Delia.lopez@dot.gov), or through the office email at [RMD.ODI@dot.gov](mailto:RMD.ODI@dot.gov). We look forward to working with you for successful completion of this recall campaign.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Patricia Wallace for".

George H. Person  
Chief, Recall Management Division  
Office of Defects Investigation  
Enforcement