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OFFICE OF RECALL
MANAGEMENT DIVISION

08V-126
(7 Pages)

March 14, 2008

Mr. Daniel Smith
USDOT NHTSA
Office of Defects Investigation
1200 Jersey Ave. S.E. W48-324
Washington D.C. 20590

VIA E-MAIL AND FEDERAL EXPRESS

RE: FMVSS Standard 573-Defect and Noncompliance Responsibility and Reports
Alternator B+ cable- Van Hool Model C2045
NHTSA ODI Resume-Investigation PE 08-003

Dear Mr. Smith:

Please find enclosed our 573 Report with reference to the above-mentioned investigation/recall.

Should you have any questions, please contact us.

Sincerely,

ABC BUS COMPANIES, INC.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Louis Hotard". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Louis Hotard
Director of Technical Services

LT:at

cc: Mr. Dane Cornell
Mr. Thomas DeMatteo
Mr. Andrew Fung
Mr. Leopold Van Hool
Mr. Josef Deturck
Mr. Mark Stroeykens

Safety Defect and Noncompliance Report Guide for Vehicles

PART 573 Defect and Noncompliance Report¹

On or about January 25, 2008, ABC Bus Companies, Inc., distributor for Van Hool N.V., received a message from NHTSA regarding Van Hool Service Bulletin 1210 which relates to securing alternator cables in the motor vehicles listed below. ABC notified Van Hool of NHTSA's inquiry and that Service Bulletin 1210 should be treated as a Safety Recall and is furnishing notification to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration in accordance with 49 CFR Part 573 Defect and Noncompliance Reports.

Date this report was prepared: March 13, 2008

Furnish the manufacturer's identification code for this campaign (if applicable):

Reference: NHTSA – ODI RESUME PE 08-003 dd. January 23, 2008

1. Identify the full corporate name of the fabricating manufacturer of the vehicle being investigated. If the vehicle is imported, provide the name and mailing address of the designated agent as prescribed by 49 U.S.C. §30164.

Manufacturer:	Import Agent:
<u>Van Hool N.V.</u>	<u>ABC Bus, Inc.</u>
<u>Bernard Van Hoolstraadt 58</u>	<u>17469 West Colonial Dr.</u>
<u>B-2578 Lier-Koningshooikt, Belgium</u>	<u>Winter Garden, FL 34787</u>

Identify the corporate official, by name and title, whom the agency should contact with respect to this investigation.

Louis Hotard, Director of Technical Services, ABC Bus, Inc.

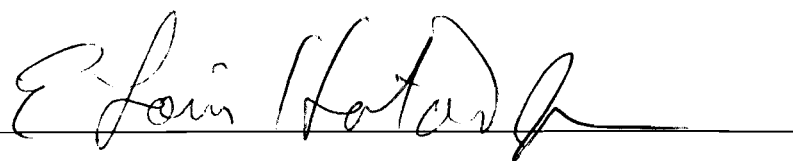
Telephone Number: 407-656-7977, x7221 **Fax No.:** 407-905-7021

Name and Title of Person who prepared this report.

Louis Hotard, Director of Technical Services, ABC Bus, Inc.

¹Each manufacturer must furnish a report, to the Associate Administrator for Safety Assurance, for each defect or noncompliance condition which relates to motor vehicle safety.

Signed: _____



Identify the Vehicle Models Involved in the Investigation

2. Identify the Vehicles Involved in the Investigation, for each make and model or applicable vehicle line (provide illustrations or photographs as necessary to describe the vehicle), provide:

Make(s): Van Hool **Model Years Involved:** 2005, 2006, 2007 **Model(s):** C2045

Production Dates: Beginning: March 2004 **Ending:** February 2007

VIN Range	Vehicle Type	Bodystyle	Model Year
47001 – 47055	C2045	Motorcoach	MY 2005
47057 – 47060	C2045	Motorcoach	MY 2005
47066 – 47093	C2045	Motorcoach	MY 2005
47095 – 47110	C2045	Motorcoach	MY 2005
47113 – 47120	C2045	Motorcoach	MY 2005
47125 – 47129	C2045	Motorcoach	MY 2005
47056	C2045	Motorcoach	MY 2006
47061 – 47065	C2045	Motorcoach	MY 2006
47094	C2045	Motorcoach	MY 2006
47111 – 47112	C2045	Motorcoach	MY 2006
47121 – 47124	C2045	Motorcoach	MY 2006
47130 – 47199	C2045	Motorcoach	MY 2006
47200 – 47447	C2045	Motorcoach	MY 2007

Descriptive information which characterizes/distinguishes the investigated vehicles from those model vehicles not included in the investigation:

To be determined by manufacturer

Identify the approximate percentage of the production of all the investigated models distributed by your company between the inclusive dates of manufacture provided above, that the investigated model population represents. For example, if the investigation involved Widgets equipped with certain items of equipment from January 1, 1996 through

April 1, 1997, then what was the percentage of the investigated Widgets of all Widgets manufactured during that time period.

The problem is potentially present in 100% of the production of the models manufactured during the above time periods and is to be determined by Van Hool N.V., the manufacturer.

II. Identify the Investigation Population

3. Furnish the total number of vehicles investigated potentially containing the defect or noncompliance.

Number of Vehicles:

Model	Year	Potentially Involved
C2045	2005	116
C2045	2006	83
C2045	2007	248

Total Number Potentially Affected by the investigation: 447

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

100%

Identify and describe how the investigation population was determined--in particular how the investigated models were selected and the basis for the beginning and final dates of manufacture of the investigation vehicles:

Production cut-in of a change in clamping the alternator B+ ring terminal on C2045 model equipped with Caterpillar C13 engine has been provided on both the upper most and lower most mounted alternators. Coaches manufactured prior to the cut-in may experience cable retention failure due to vibration issues.

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.

B+ alternator cable retention on the C13 engines equipping model C2045 may fail. The failure would consist of breakage of the B+ ring terminal.

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

Engine vibrations could lead to breakage of the ring terminal.

Describe the consequence(s) of the defect or noncompliance condition.
The positive battery cable detaching from the rear of the alternator can cause cable grounding. This may result in a fire.

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

If the defect or noncompliance is in a component or assembly purchased from a supplier, identify the supplier by corporate name and address.
Not applicable

Identify the name and title of the chief executive officer or knowledgeable representative of the supplier:

Not applicable

IV. Provide the Chronology in Determining the Defect/Noncompliance

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

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. The summary should include, but not be limited to, the number of reports, accidents, injuries, fatalities, and warranty claims.

Van Hool issued Service Bulletin SB 1210 to address a vibration issue that effects the alternator positive battery cable. The bulletin describes the addition of a clamp to hold the cable to the rear of the alternator for improved retention. On January 24, 2008, NHTSA sent a message to ABC Companies being concerned about the possibility of the cable grounding itself and starting a fire. ABC Companies transmitted this message to Van Hool, N.V. Further investigation is occurring to determine the amount of customer complaints, if any, for vehicles that may have experienced cable retention failures. To the best of our knowledge, no notices of accidents or injuries have been received by ABC Companies.

7. Not applicable

V. Identify the Remedy

8. Furnish a description of the manufacturer's remedy for the defect or noncompliance. Clearly describe the differences between the campaign condition and the remedy.

To be determined by Van Hool, the manufacturer.

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

To be determined by Van Hool, the manufacturer.

Identify and describe how and when the investigation condition was corrected in production. If the production remedy was identical to the remedy in the field, so state. If the product was discontinued, so state.

According to the Van Hool, N.V., the manufacturer, improved cable retention has been cut into production on both the upper most and lower most mounted alternators as from C2045 #47448. Production remedy was identical to the remedy in the field.

VI. Identify the Investigation 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 investigation.

To be determined by Van Hool, the manufacturer. As soon as the information is received from the manufacturer, respondent will provide a schedule to NHTSA.

VII. Furnish Investigation 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 (including both original and follow-up) concerning this investigation from the time your company determines the defect or noncompliance condition on, not just the initial notification. *A DRAFT copy of the notification documents should be submitted to this office by Fax (202-366-7882) for review prior to mailing.*

Note that these documents are to be submitted separately from those provided in accordance with Part 573.8 requirements.

Notice / Bulletins in process