



Spartan Chassis, Inc.

1000 Reynolds Road - Charlotte, MI - 48813

573 DEFECT & NONCOMPLIANCE REPORT

Description:	Hitch Fractures		
Internal Code:	08023	Date of Report:	11/26/2008

Submitted to: Associate Administrator for Safety Assurance
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
1200 New Jersey Ave. SE
Washington, DC 20590

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

Manufacturer Identification: Spartan Chassis, Inc.
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Charlotte, MI 48813

Telephone: (517) 543-6400

Corporate contacts for recall information:

Customer Notification / Customer Service:

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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:	K2, MG and MM		
Model Years Involved:	2005, 2006, 2007, 2008 and 2009		
Vehicle Type:	Motorhome		
Weight Range:	From GVWR: 32,000	To GVWR:	46,600
Weight Class:	From Class: 7	To Class:	8
Beginning VDM:	6/22/2004	Ending VDM:	7/30/2008
% Potentially Involved:	100%		

Descriptive information which characterizes/distinguishes the recalled vehicles from those model vehicles not included in the recall:
 Certain motorhome chassis built with suspect hitches.

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	2005	26
K2	2006	61
MG	2006	95
K2	2007	86
MG	2007	1080
MM	2007	1
K2	2008	70
MG	2008	799
MM	2008	224
K2	2009	1
MG	2009	136
MM	2009	36
UNK	UNK	6
TOTAL:		2621

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 using the Spartan part number of the hitch and querying bills of material to identify those models built with suspect hitches. Basis for the beginning date was the point of first use of the suspect hitches. Final dates have been established by implementing a design change to the suspect hitches and subsequent use in the assembly process.

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.

Certain portions of the hitch may fracture. The suspect hitches are mounted to the chassis frame at the rear of the motorhome.

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

Limitation in design and/or process control lead to sharp radii and/or tool marks formed on the raised receiver style hitches. Sharp radii and/or tool marks cause concentraion of stress in the bend area.

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

Suspect hitches may develop fractures and subsequent separation may occur, resulting in a vehicle crash, property damage or pedestrian harm.

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

There are no early warning indicators to the driver. However, if attention is brought to the suspect hitch a crack may be identified.

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:	Hitch
Supplier Part Number:	81146, 81134 and 81165
Spartan Part Number:	2535-CC4-001, 2842-CC4-001, 2848-CC4-001, 2946-CC4-001, 2946-CC4-001, 2542-CC4-001 and 2770-CC4-001
Supplier Corporate Name:	Putnam Hitch
Address:	Putnam Hitch Products, Inc. 211 Industrial Ave. Bronson, MI 49028
CEO or Knowledgeable Rep:	Rex Putnam

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.

SO 55693 - 03MAY07 - Reported hitch sustained significant cracking
SO 58114 - 21SEP07 - Reported hitch sustained significant cracking
SO 58068 - 06NOV07 - Reported hitch sustained significant cracking
SO 59958 - 15MAY08 - Reported hitch sustained significant cracking
SO 60192 - 15MAY08 - Reported hitch sustained significant cracking
SO 66816 - 09JUN08 - Reported hitch sustained significant cracking
SO 56487 - 10JUN08 - Reported hitch sustained significant cracking
SO 65449 - 10JUN08 - Reported hitch sustained significant cracking
SO 64620 - 02JUL08 - Reported hitch sustained significant cracking
SO 66816 - 26AUG08 - Reported hitch sustained significant cracking

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.

Hitch side plates have been redesigned to eliminate the stress concentration in the bend. Cross tube has been placed below the receiver rather than in-line. The original product exhibited stress concentration at the radii of the side plate bend. This redesign eliminates the bend relief notch in the side plate, adding additional material to the section below the mounting rails. By implementing these changes, stress concentration has been eliminated.

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

Receiver is above the cross tube on the new hitch versus in-line with the tube on the old hitch.

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 in production on or before July 30, 2008. The production remedy was to incorporate higher strength material, increased bend radius, increased leg length and increased size of reinforcement plate.

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.

01/16/2009 - Begin mailings customer notifications alerting dealers, retailers and other manufacturers.

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	16-Jan-09
Draft Notification letter to purchasers	16-Jan-09
Press release (if applicable)	N/A
Recall Service Bulletin (RSB)	16-Jan-09
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.

08023