



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

1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

September 10, 2009

TIMOTHY J. NALEPKA
SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT AND
GENERAL COUNCEL
MOTOR COACH INDUSTRIES
1700 EAST GOLF ROAD, SUITE 300
SCHAUMBURG, ILL 60173

NVS-215dgl
09V-350

SUBJECT: TAG AXLE TIE ROD CLAMPS

DEAR MR. NALEPKA:

This letter serves to acknowledge Motor Coach Industries' (MCI) 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 Federal law.

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:

MCI/D4500/2009

MCI/D4505/2009

NHTSA Campaign Number: 09V-350

Mfg's Report Date: September 8 2009

Components: STEERING: LINKAGES: TIE ROD ASSEMBLY

Potential Number of Units Affected: 53

Summary:

MCI IS RECALLING MODEL YEAR 2009 D4500/4505 COACHES EQUIPPED WITH THE MERITOR FH 946 14,000 LB RATED STEERABLE TAG AXLE. DUE TO INSUFFICIENT CLAMPING FORCE OF THE CYLINDER LOCK PLATE, IT MAY MOVE FROM ITS NORMAL SET POSITION, WHICH IN TURN COULD RESULT IN THE TAG AXLE NOT AUTOMATICALLY LOCKING, OR LOCKING WITH THE WHEELS NOT IN A STRAIGHT AHEAD POSITION.

Consequence:

IF THE TAG AXLE DOES NOT LOCK ABOVE 20 MPH, THERE IS A LOSS OF LATERAL FORCE CONTROL OF THE TAG AXLE THAT CAN AFFECT THE STEERING OF THE VEHICLE. ALSO DURING A TURN THE REAR OF THE VEHICLE WILL SWING FURTHER OUT IN THE OPPOSITE DIRECTION OF THE TURN AND COULD RESULT IN THE COACH STRIKING ANOTHER VEHICLE INCREASING THE RISK OF A CRASH.

Remedy:

DEALERS WILL PROVIDE REPLACEMENT CLAMPS THAT DO NOT HAVE PAINT ON THE CLAMPING SURFACES. THIS SERVICE WILL BE PERFORMED FREE OF CHARGE. THE RECALL IS EXPECTED TO BEGIN DURING SEPTEMBER 2009. OWNERS MAY CONTACT MCI CUSTOMER SERVICE LINE AT 1-800-241-2947.

Notes:

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 letter and it meets the requirements of 49 CFR Part 577.

The information in your defect report appears to satisfy the requirements of 49 CFR 573.6.

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).

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 contact for this recall will be Delia Lopez who may be reached by phone at 202-366-9525, or by email at Delia.lopez@dot.gov, or through the office email at RMD.ODI@dot.gov. We look forward to working with you toward a successful completion of this recall campaign.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'G. Person', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

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