

January 15, 2009

**VIA E-MAIL**  
**RECEIPT CONFIRMATION REQUESTED**

Mr. Daniel Smith  
Associate Administrator for Enforcement  
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration  
Attn: Recall Management Division (NVS-215)  
1200 New Jersey Ave. S.E.  
Washington, DC 20590

**09V-021**  
**(2 pages)**

Re: Eldorado National - Kansas  
Defect and Non-Compliance Report

Dear Mr. Smith:

Eldorado National - Kansas (ENK) has identified a safety defect on buses manufactured between January 1, 2007 and October 1, 2008.

Pursuant to Part 573 of Title 49 of the Code of Federal Regulations, we are hereby notifying the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration that certain buses manufactured by ENK were built with driveline fasteners that may have been improperly torqued during assembly.

- A. Recall Population and Vehicle Identification. The improperly torqued driveline fasteners may be on the following buses:

| <u>Models</u> | <u>Model Years</u> |
|---------------|--------------------|
| Aero Elite    | 2008, 2009         |
| Aerolite      | 2008, 2009         |
| Aerotech      | 2008, 2009         |
| Transtech     | 2008, 2009         |
| Versa Shuttle | 2008, 2009         |

These buses were manufactured by Eldorado National - Kansas between January 1, 2007 and October 1, 2008.

The total number of buses subject to this recall campaign is 730. 96 of these buses were exported outside of the United States.

- B. Description of Defect. The fasteners that secure the bus driveline to the Telma retarder may have been improperly torqued during assembly. If not tightened properly, the fasteners could come loose and cause loss of vehicle control, possibly causing a crash and potentially resulting in property damage, personal injury, or death. No accidents have been reported as a result of this condition to date.

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DEFECTS INVESTIGATION  
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- C. Basis for Determining that a Defect Exists. ENK found the defect during a routine safety audit of a production vehicle. The torque value for the driveline fasteners was found to not be within the recommended range. ENK did a field investigation to determine the recall population.
- D. Remedying of Defect. The buses subject to this recall will be inspected and if the torque values for the driveline fasteners are found to be out of tolerance, the fasteners will be adjusted to bring their torque value into the recommended tolerance range. The owners of the buses subject to this recall campaign will be advised to contact ENK in order to make arrangements to have their bus inspected and repaired if necessary. ENK has agreed to remedy the defect without charge to the owners.
- E. Owner Notifications. ENK will notify the owners of the buses of the safety defect. An owner's letter will be submitted for approval when a recall number has been issued.
- F. Dealer Notifications. ENK will notify the dealers of the buses of the safety defect. A dealer's letter will be submitted for approval when a recall number has been issued.
- G. Quarterly Reporting Requirements. ENK will be filing quarterly reports as required by Part 573.7 of Title 49 the Code of Federal Regulations.
- H. Campaign Number. ENK does not have an internal campaign number for this recall. ENK will use the recall campaign number assigned by NHTSA.

The enclosed information should comply with the NHTSA regulations and satisfy the obligations of Eldorado National - Kansas with respect to this recall campaign. If you need any additional information regarding the participation of Eldorado National - Kansas in this recall campaign, please feel free to contact me at 937-596-6849, Ext. 7363 or Eldorado National - Kansas at 800-850-1287.

Sincerely,



David M. Mihalick  
Thor Industries, Standards Compliance Manager