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Safety Defect and Noncompliance Report Guide for Vehicles  
**PART 573 Defect and Noncompliance Report<sup>3</sup>**

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On Feb 23, <sup>2009</sup>~~2008~~, Tiffin Motorhomes [MFR] decided that (a defect which relates to motor vehicle safety)(a noncompliance with Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard No. \_\_\_\_\_) exists in the motor vehicles listed below, 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: Feb 23, 2009

Furnish the manufacturer's identification code for this recall (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

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

Tiffin Motorhomes, Inc.  
105 2nd St. NW  
Red Bay AL 35582

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

Bob Tiffin, President

Telephone Number: 256-356-8861 Fax No.: 256-356-6863

Name and Title of Person who prepared this report.  
Liz Jones  
Office Secretary

Signed: Bob Tiffin

<sup>3</sup>Each manufacturer must furnish a report, to the Associate Administrator for Safety Assurance, for each defect or noncompliance condition which relates to motor vehicle safety.

This guide was developed from 49 CFR Part 573, "Defect and Noncompliance Reports" and also outlines information currently requested. Any questions, please consult the complete Part 573 or contact Mr. Jon White at (202) 366-5227 or by FAX at (202) 366-7882.

**I. Identify the Vehicle Models Involved in the Recall**

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

**Make(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Model Years Involved: \_\_\_\_\_ Model(s): \_\_\_\_\_**

**Production Dates: Beginning: \_\_\_\_\_ Ending: \_\_\_\_\_**

**VIN Range: Beginning: \_\_\_\_\_ Ending: \_\_\_\_\_**

**Vehicle Type: \_\_\_\_\_ Bodystyle: \_\_\_\_\_**

**Descriptive information which characterizes/distinguishes the recalled vehicles from those model vehicles not included in the recall:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Make(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Model Years Involved: \_\_\_\_\_ Model(s): \_\_\_\_\_**

**Production Dates: Beginning: \_\_\_\_\_ Ending: \_\_\_\_\_**

**VIN Range: Beginning: \_\_\_\_\_ Ending: \_\_\_\_\_**

**Vehicle Type: \_\_\_\_\_ Bodystyle: \_\_\_\_\_**

**Descriptive information which characterizes/distinguishes the recalled vehicles from those model vehicles not included in the recall:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Make(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Model Years Involved: \_\_\_\_\_ Model(s): \_\_\_\_\_**

**Production Dates: Beginning: \_\_\_\_\_ Ending: \_\_\_\_\_**

**VIN Range: Beginning: \_\_\_\_\_ Ending: \_\_\_\_\_**

**Vehicle Type: \_\_\_\_\_ Bodystyle: \_\_\_\_\_**

**Descriptive information which characterizes/distinguishes the recalled vehicles from those model vehicles not included in the recall:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Identify the approximate percentage of the production of all the recalled models manufactured by your company between the inclusive dates of manufacture provided above, that the recalled model population represents. For example, if the recall involved Widgets equipped with certain items of equipment from January 1, 1996 through April 1, 1997, then what was the percentage of the recalled Widgets of all Widgets manufactured during that time period. \_\_\_\_\_**

**II. Identify the Recall Population**

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

Model	Yr.	# of Veh. Potent. Involved	Model	Yr.	# of Veh. Potent. Involved
Allegro Bus	2006	70	Zephyr	2005	25
Allegro Bus	2007	395	Zephyr	2006	50
Allegro Bus	2008	311	Zephyr	2007	90
Allegro Bus	2009	65	Zephyr	2008	61
Phaeton	2007	110	Zephyr	2009	14
Phaeton	2008	177			
Phaeton	2009	35		unknown	* 5

Total Number Potentially Affected by the Recall:

1408

\* 4 Do not have a unit built on the chassis, but the hitch has been replaced. I we can't find where we received chassis from Spartan. But we are still looking.

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

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:

Spartan sent Tiffin a list

**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 Spartan HM, MG - K2 Motorhome Chassis equipped with a  
Bram Trailer Hitch - having a VDM (Vehicle Date of Manufacture) of June 22,  
2004 through July 30, 2008. End plates on trailer hitches are fracturing  
at the 90° bend of the mounting flange.

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

Radii too sharp causing high amount of stress in  
the bend area.

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

Hitch could break resulting in wreck.

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

No warning, unless hitch was checked daily.

If the defect or noncompliance is in a component or assembly purchased from a supplier, identify the supplier by corporate name and address.

Spartan Mfg. places hitch on chassis before  
it arrives.

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

Andy Collins 517-543-6400 x.3219

**IV. Provide the Chronology in Determining the Defect/Noncompliance**

*If the recall 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.**

**7. With respect to a noncompliance, identify and provide the test results or other data (in chronological order and including 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.**

Spartan is notifying customers + a new hitch (furnished by Spartan) will be installed

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

N/A

**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.**

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**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 the recall.**

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**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 (including both original and follow-up) concerning this recall 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.**