



July 6, 2009

Valerie Fortin
Girardin Minibus
3000 Girardin Street
Drummondville, QC J2E 0A1

Subject: Safety recall of SMI LED safety stop arm models.

Dear Ms. Fortin:

This letter is being sent to you in accordance with the requirements of the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act. Specialty Manufacturing Inc. (SMI) has determined that the 000290 LED Light Kit manufactured for the "Specialty" brand of School Bus Stop arms manufactured between March 31, 2008 and December 18, 2008, and Light Kits manufactured between Date Code J08030 and J08332 may be subject to reduced service life.

According to our records, affected units were purchased by your company (see attached list). If those units were installed as original equipment on vehicles manufactured at your facility, and you agree that they contain a safety defect, **your company must notify the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) within 5 business days and conduct a safety recall of those vehicles.** You may contact the NHTSA with questions by sending an email to rmd.odi@dot.gov.

Description of Defect

SMI has received reports of premature 000290 LED Light Kit failures on its safety stop arms due to a wiring fault. This condition is the result of a sub-supplier change to the wire cable that could cause a separation of the wires. Should this happen it would render the LED lights inoperable.

While all units meet the requirements of FMVSS 131, they may be subject to reduced service life due to this potential wiring fault.

Identifying Suspect Parts

The suspect wiring is indistinguishable from the certified wiring. Consequently, identification of potentially suspect wiring must be based upon the manufacturing date codes of stop arms or LED Light Kits.

The enclosed SMI LED Light Kit Safety Campaign Bulletin details the applicable date codes and their locations.



Corporate Office: 10200 Pineville Rd, Pineville, NC 28134 (704) 889-7518 - Fax (704) 889-2760



Remedy Program

The solution is to replace the LED Light Kits on the SMI safety stop arms with replacement light kits. To help you comply with your obligation to issue a safety recall of the vehicles that contain any of the affected stop arm assemblies on the attached list, we have attached samples of a dealer LED Light Kit Safety Campaign Bulletin and a sample letter to owners of potentially affected vehicles, which should facilitate your notification to dealers and owners of the recall and the required remedy procedure.

Although we have provided these samples to you for your convenience, you must submit drafts of your version of these notices to NHTSA for approval at least 5 days prior to mailing such notification to dealers and owners of potentially affected stop arm assemblies.

Important: Dealer notification by Certified Mail is required by Federal law for all safety recalls. Responsible dealership personnel should be instructed to sign for this Certified mail without hesitation as it contains urgent safety recall information. Notifications to owners of potentially affected vehicles are by first class mail. Please be advised that the outside of each envelope containing an owner notification letter must be marked "SAFETY RECALL NOTICE" all in capital letters, either in boldface or underlined, and in type that is larger than that used in the address section. A sample of the envelope must be submitted to NHTSA for approval at least 5 business days before mailing to owners.

IMPORTANT: Some of the vehicles affected may still be in your inventory. Federal law requires you to complete the recall service on these vehicles before delivery. SMI will provide replacement or repair for these units prior to delivery to your customers.

Availability of Service Kits

Service kits are available immediately and may be obtained by one of three methods outlined below:

- **Web:** Point your Web browser to http://www.smiglobal.net/tech_bulletins.php and click on the **000290 Recall Campaign** link under the **Stop Arms & Blades** section.
- **E-mail:** Send an e-mail to SMI at warranty@smiglobal.net indicating the quantity of LED light kits you have for return, your complete shipping address, contact name and phone number, and, if applicable, vehicle VIN number.
- **Phone:** Contact SMI Warranty Service at 1-800-951-7867, Option 7 for a Return Materials Authorization (RMA) number.

Replacement light kits will be sent to you per the enclosed SMI LED Light Kit Safety Campaign Bulletin, which details the steps for requesting no-charge replacement units and for returning the defective units to our Warranty Center. The replacement units will be shipped upon request and will include complete instructions on the removal and reinstallation of the kits. Removal and reinstallation of each 000290 LED Light Kit can be accomplished in 15 minutes, for which SMI will reimburse installers \$15.00 for each 000290 LED Light Kit replaced. Reimbursement for installation will take place upon receipt of the defective unit(s) at SMI's Warranty Center.



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We regret any inconvenience this action may cause you. However, we are concerned about your safety and the safety of our children. After contacting SMI Customer Service or your dealer, if you are still not able to have the safety defect remedied without charge and within a reasonable time, you may wish to write the Administrator, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, Washington, DC 20590, or call 1-888- 327-4236 (TTY: 1-800-424-9153); or go to <http://www.safercar.gov>.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Best regards,

C. Bruce Emmett
Chief Operating Officer

Encl: SMI LED Light Kit Safety Campaign Bulletin

SPECIALTY
MANUFACTURING, INC.

SpecFlor

TRANSPEC
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PRETORIA

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SMI Stop Arm Assemblies incorporating 000290 LED Light Kits

<u>Model</u>	<u>Description</u>
000290	KIT-LED STROBING STOP ARM
000580	BLADE ASSY-REFL W/STRB/LED LTS
002380	S/A-AIR, DIA GRD W/STRB LED LT
002380C	S/A-AIR, DIA GRD W/STRB LED LT
002381	S/A-AIR, DIA GRD W/STRB LED LT,RR MT
002381C	S/A-AIR, DIA GRD W/STRB LED LT, C2
002970	S/A-AIR,HI-INT W/NON-STRB LED
002970B	S/A-AIR,HI-INT W/NON-STRB LED
002970C	S/A-AIR,HI-INT W/NON-STRB LED,
002970R	S/A-AIR,HI-INT W/NON-STRB LED, RT-RR
002971	S/A-AIR,HI-INT,NON-STB LED,RR
002971B	S/A-AIR,HI-INT,NON-STB LED,RR
002971C	S/A-AIR,HI-INT,NON-STB LED,RR
002974	S/A-AIR,HI-INT,NON-STB LED,ARR
002974B	S/A-AIR,HI-INT,NON-STB LED,ARR
002980	S/A-AIR,HI-INT W/STROBING LED
002980B	S/A-AIR,HI-INT W/STB LED,BBIRD
002980C	S/A-AIR,HI-INT W/STRB LED,C2
002981	S/A-AIR,HI-INT W/STRB LED,RR-M
002981B	S/A-AIR,HI-INT W/STRB LED,RR-M
002981C	S/A-AIR,HI-INT W/STRB LED,RR-M, C2
002984C	S/A-AIR,HI-INT W/STRB LED,ARRET,C2
005970C	S/A-ELEC,HI-INT BLD,NON-STB LED,C2
005970M	S/A-5.5 SER,HI-IN,NON-STB LED
005980C	S/A-ELEC,HI-INT BLD,STB LED,C2
005980M	S/A-ELEC 5.5 S,HI-INT,STB LED
005981M	S/A-5.5 SER,HI-IN,STB LED,RR
005988M	S/A-ELEC 5.5 S,HI-INT,STB LED,8"STOP
006380	S/A-SLD ST,DIA GRD,STRB LED
006970	S/A-SLD ST,HI INT,NON-STRB LED
006971	S/A-SLD ST,H.I.,NON-STB LED,RR
006974	S/A-SLD,HI INT,N-STB LED ARRET
006980	S/A-SLD ST,HI INT,STROBING LED
006981	S/A-SLD ST,HI INT,STB LED,RR-M



Specialty Manufacturing Inc. LED Light Kit Safety Campaign Bulletin

Model 000290 LED Light Kit and Safety Stop Arm assemblies incorporating this kit (see attached listing)

SMI is recalling LED Light Kits on “Specialty” brand School Bus Stop Arms manufactured between March 31, 2008 and December 18, 2008 (refer to Figure 1), and Light Kits manufactured between Date Code J08030 and J08332 (refer to Figure 2) due to the potential for reduced service life. This recall bulletin includes Light Kits installed on buses or new, unused Light Kits in white factory boxes (refer to Figure 3). All units meet the requirements of FMVSS 131, but may be subject to reduced service life.

Note: All certified replacement Light Kits will be designated by a ¼” black band at the “Y” joint (refer to Figure 4). Units with this designation are not subject to reduced service life and are not covered by this recall.

Figure 1

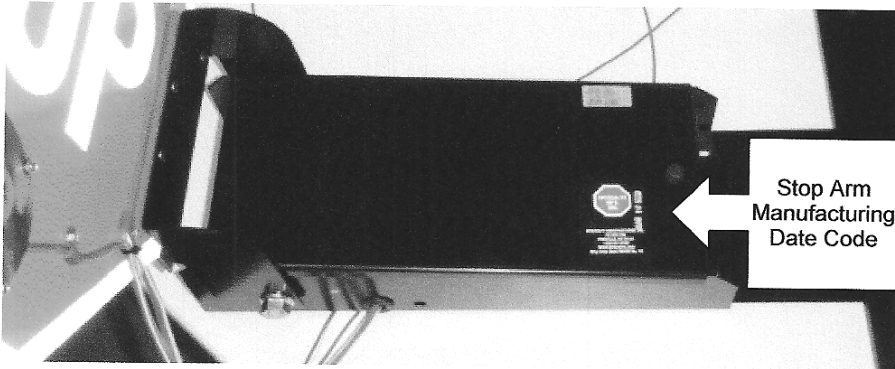


Figure 2

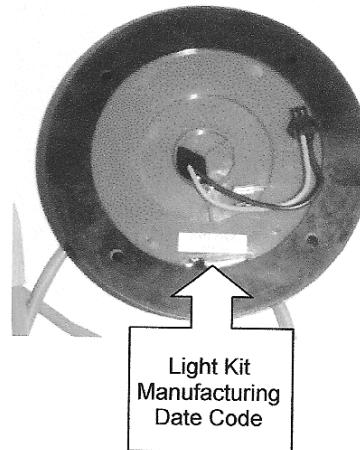


Figure 3

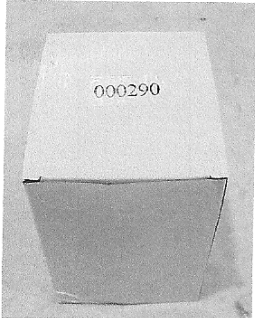
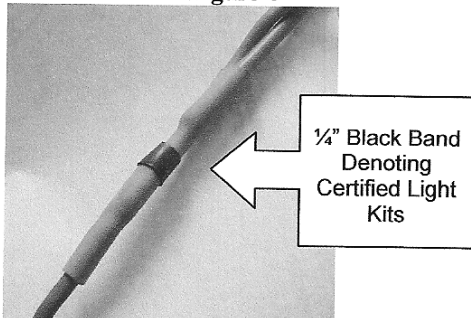


Figure 4



To expedite the repair or replacement of suspect LED Light Kits, request replacement kits by contacting SMI Warranty Service using one of the three methods outlined below.

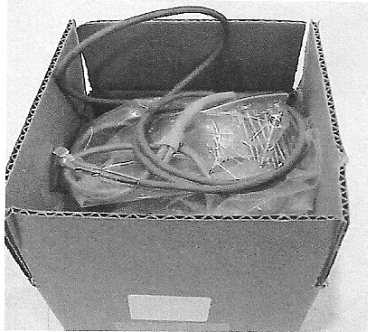
- **Web:** Point your Web browser to http://www.smiglobal.net/tech_bulletins.php and click on the **000290 Recall Campaign** link under the **Stop Arms & Blades** section.
- **E-mail:** Send an e-mail to SMI at warranty@smiglobal.net indicating the quantity of LED light kits you have for return, your complete shipping address, contact name and phone number, and, if applicable, vehicle VIN number.
- **Phone:** Contact SMI Warranty Service Monday thru Friday, 8:00am to 5:00pm, EST at 1-800-951-7867, Option 7 for a Return Materials Authorization (RMA) number.

To expedite the repair or replacement of products in the field, please follow the steps below.

NOTE: Light Kits outside the date range specified in this safety campaign are subject to SMI's Standard Warranty Policy. Your SMI warranty representative will assist you with any questions.

- Service kits are available immediately and may be requested by one of three methods outlined above.
- **DO NOT RETURN LIGHT KITS UNTIL REPLACEMENT LIGHT KITS HAVE ARRIVED.** Returned in-service Light Kits must be placed into the **brown** replacement kit boxes for shipment to the warranty center (refer to Figure 5).

Figure 5



- All in-service lights w/gaskets (four per assembly) must be placed in the enclosed bags (one light per bag).
- All returned kits must be **complete** with no missing components. **(4) Lights (4) Gaskets**
- Write the RMA number in the space provided on the return box label and check the boxes confirming the contents.

RMA# _____
<input type="checkbox"/> 4 Lights in bags
<input type="checkbox"/> 4 Gaskets

- New, unused product must be returned in original white cartons (refer to Figure 3) and over-boxed in corrugated shipping boxes.
- Return all Light Kits using the UPS ARS return shipping label enclosed in each box. This label may be used for individual or master pack return shipments.

ALL QUALIFYING LIGHT KITS MUST BE RETURNED TO:

**Warranty Center
3900 Central Parkway
Hudsonville, MI 49426**

STOP ARM WIRING CONFIGURATION

- When installing replacements, the wiring should be routed in the same configuration as original OEM installation to provide proper clearances.