



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

1200 New Jersey Avenue SE  
Washington, DC 20590

September 10, 2010

MS. JANET KERCHER-DUDLEY  
STANDARDS ENGINEER  
TURTLE TOP  
67819 STATE ROAD 15  
NEW PARIS, IN 46553

NVS-215  
10V-400

**SUBJECT: SEAT BARRIER FOR LEG PROTECTION**

**DEAR MS. KERCHER-DUDLEY:**

This letter serves to acknowledge Turtle Top's (Turtle Top) notification to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) of a safety noncompliance with Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard No. 222, "School Bus Passenger Seating and Crash Protection," for which a safety recall campaign will be conducted pursuant to Federal law for the vehicles listed below.

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:**

SPIRIT/MFSAB TERRA TRANSPORT/2005-2009

**NHTSA Campaign Number:** 10V-400      **Mfg's Report Date:** September 1, 2010

**Components:** SEATS:BARRIERS

**Potential Number of Units Affected:** 36

**Summary:**

TURTLE TOP IS RECALLING CERTAIN MODEL YEAR 2005 THROUGH 2010 SPIRIT (MFSAB TERRA TRANSPORT) MULTI-FUNCTION SCHOOL ACTIVITY BUSES MANUFACTURED FROM OCTOBER 27, 2004 THROUGH JULY 31, 2009, EQUIPPED WITH FREEDMAN SEATING COMPANY SEAT RESTRAINT BARRIERS. THE AFFECTED SEATS CONTAIN A STEEL PLATE WITH INCORRECT GAGE OF STEEL WHICH FAILS TO CONFORM WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF FEDERAL MOTOR VEHICLE SAFETY STANDARD NO. 222, "SCHOOL BUS PASSENGER SEATING AND CRASH PROTECTION."

**Consequence:**

IN THE EVENT OF A CRASH, THE SEAT OCCUPANT MAY BE INJURED.

**Remedy:**

TURTLE TOP WILL NOTIFY OWNERS AND A REPAIR KIT, ALONG WITH INSTRUCTIONS, WILL BE PROVIDED FREE OF CHARGE. OR, IF THE OWNER PREFERS, REPAIRS WILL BE MADE BY A TURTLE TOP DEALER. THE SAFETY RECALL IS EXPECTED TO BEGIN DURING SEPTEMBER 2010. OWNERS SHOULD CONTACT FREEDMAN SEATING COMPANY AT 1-800-443-4540 EXT 233 OR TURTLE TOP'S CUSTOMER SERVICE DEPARTMENT AT 1-800-296-2105 TO OBTAIN A REPAIR KIT.

**Notes:**

CUSTOMERS MAY 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).

Under 49 U.S.C. § 30112(a), it is illegal for anyone, including a manufacturer, distributor, dealer, or retailer to sell an item of equipment or vehicle that fails to comply with all applicable Federal motor vehicle safety standards.

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

We have reviewed your proposed owner letter and it meets the requirements of 49 CFR Part 577. 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 30 days after the close of the calendar quarter in which the campaign was initiated. Thereafter, quarterly reports will be due on or before 30 days after close of the calendar quarter.

Your contact for this recall will be Kelly Schuler, who may be reached by phone at 202-366-5227, by email at [Kelly.Schuler@dot.gov](mailto:Kelly.Schuler@dot.gov), or through the office email at [RMD.ODI@dot.gov](mailto:RMD.ODI@dot.gov). We look forward to working with you for the successful completion of this recall campaign.

Sincerely,



for

Richard Willard  
Acting Chief, Recall Management Division  
Office of Defects Investigation  
Enforcement