

419 West Pike Street, PO Box 629, Jackson Center, OH 45334-0629

January 29, 2010

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

10V-038
(2 Pages)

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

Dear Mr. Smith:

Eldorado National - Kansas (ENK) has decided a safety defect exists on buses manufactured between January 2006 and August 2007 that have Grote LED marker, clearance, and identification lamps installed on them.

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 assembled with Grote LED Marker lamps and contain a safety defect.

- A. Recall Population and Vehicle Identification. The Grote LED marker lamps may be on the following vehicles:

<u>Models</u>	<u>Model Years</u>
Aerotech	2006-2008
Aerolite	2006-2008
Aero Elite	2006-2008
Trans Tech	2006-2008

These buses were manufactured by Eldorado National - Kansas between January 2006 and December 2007. Buses produced during this production range, equipped with Grote Industries, Part Numbers. 47092 and 47093, with date codes 060101 (Jan 1, 2006) through 061231 (Dec 31, 2006), are affected. The total number of vehicles subject to this recall campaign in the United States is 1227. 69 of these vehicles were exported outside of the United States.

- B. Description of Defect. ENK has determined that installation methods and use in the field can allow moisture to enter the lamp housing. Excessive moisture in the housing that does not dissipate can lead to the failure of the lamps, including overheating, melting, and, potentially, a fire. In the event of a fire, there is a potential for property damage, personal injury or death. To date, only minor property damage has been reported (with no property damage claims). There have been no reports of injuries or fatalities.
- C. Basis for Determining that a Defect Exists. Seven failures have been reported to ENK. ENK further investigated the claims in cooperation with Grote to determine the cause of the lamp failure and overheating. LED lamps produced by Grote in calendar 2006 utilized a different raw material supplier for their housing and manual assembly of the

lamp. Although the lamp itself is not defective, lamps produced during this period have a wider variation in the material strength. When these lamps are coupled with the assembly process of the lamp to the bus at Eldorado this results in the safety defect. During use in the field, moisture is being collected and trapped between the bus exterior skin and the lamp housing. If the lamp is cracked, and not replaced, moisture can penetrate the lamp housing, allowing arcing to occur at the circuit board creating a carbon track. The arcing and the carbon track can cause an electrical short and the failure of the lamps. All reported incidents involve lamps produced in 2006. ENK in cooperation with Grote has decided to replace the lamps on all buses that potentially could be using lamps manufactured during calendar year 2006.

D. Supplier Information

Grote Industries

Contact – Arturo Hernandez – VP Engineering – 812-265-8853

Part Numbers and Description:

Supernova Clearance/Marker LED Lamp Red – 47092

Supernova Clearance/Marker LED Lamp Amber - 47093

- E. Remedying of Defect. The buses subject to this recall will need to have the lamps replaced. The owners of the buses subject to this recall campaign will be advised to contact their ENK dealer and or Grote in order to make arrangements to have their marker lamps exchanged and replaced. ENK has agreed to remedy the defect without charge to the owners. Approximately 95% of the vehicles being recalled will contain the lamps.
- F. Owner Notifications. ENK will notify the owners of the vehicles of the safety defect. An owner's letter will be submitted shortly for approval.
- G. Dealer Notifications. ENK will notify the dealers of the vehicles of the safety defect. A dealer's letter will be submitted shortly for approval.
- H. Quarterly Reporting Requirements. ENK will be filing quarterly reports as required by Part 573.7 of Title 49 the Code of Federal Regulations.
- I. 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 Bernie Regnier of Eldorado National - Kansas at 800-955-9086.

Sincerely,



David M. Mihalick
Thor Industries, Standards Compliance Manager