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10V-245
(6 pages) Amended



Spartan Motors, Inc.
1000 Reynolds Road - Charlotte, MI - 48813

573 DEFECT & NONCOMPLIANCE REPORT

Description:	Service brake releasing timing		
Internal Code:	10012	Date of Report:	9/2/2010

Submitted to: Associate Administrator for Safety Assurance
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
1200 New Jersey Ave. SE
Washington, DC 20590

Attn: Mrs. Kelly Schuler, Office of Defects Investigation
Fax: (202) 366-7882
Email: RMD.ODI@dot.gov

Manufacturer Identification: Spartan Motors Chassis, Inc.
1000 Reynolds Road
Charlotte, MI 48813

Telephone: (517) 543-6400

Corporate contacts for recall information:

Customer Notification / Customer Service:	Report prepared by:
Wes Redfield Campaign/Recall Coordinator Customer Service Operations (517) 543-6400, ext. 3237 Fax: (517) 543-9264 Email: Wes.Redfield@spartanchassis.com	Wesley D. Chestnut Senior Compliance Analyst Product Assurance (517) 543-6400, ext. 3275 Fax: (517) 543-7729 Email: wdchestn@spartanmotors.com

Preparer's Signature: _____

PART 573 Defect and Noncompliance Report

I. IDENTIFY THE VEHICLE MODELS INVOLVED IN THE RECALL

2. Identify the Vehicles Involved in the Recall:

Make:	Spartan Motors Chassis, Inc.		
Model:	Gladiator and Metrostar		
Model Years Involved:	1997 through 2010		
Vehicle Type:	Incomplete Fire Apparatus Chassis Cabs		
Weight Range:	From GVWR: 58,000 lbs	To GVWR:	80,000 lbs
Weight Class:	From Class: 8	To Class:	8
Beginning VDM:	2/10/1997	Ending VDM:	6/23/2010
% Potentially Involved:			

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

Vehicles subject to this non-compliance were manufactured as incomplete fire apparatus chassis cabs with tandem rear axles and have a rear GAWR of 58K or less.

II. IDENTIFY THE RECALL POPULATION

3. Furnish the total number of vehicles recalled potentially containing the defect or non-compliance

MODEL	MODEL YEAR	No. POTENTIALLY INVOLVED
Advantage	1999	1
Advantage	2000	2
Advantage	2003	4
Advantage	2004	5
Advantage	2005	3
Advantage	2006	10
Advantage	2007	5
Advantage	2008	4
Baron	1998	1
CFR	2000	4
Diamond	2006	5
Diamond	2007	3
Diamond	2008	3
Furion	2009	2
Gladiator	1997	14
Gladiator	1998	25
Gladiator	1999	41
Gladiator	2000	43
Gladiator	2001	45
Gladiator	2002	50
Gladiator	2003	34
Gladiator	2004	58
Gladiator	2005	64
Gladiator	2006	65
Gladiator	2007	62
Gladiator	2008	126
Gladiator	2009	89
Gladiator	2010	20
Low Profile	1997	4
Low Profile	1998	7
Low Profile	1999	5
Low Profile	2000	4
Low Profile	2001	4
Low Profile	2002	1
Metro Star	1997	3
Metro Star	1998	1
Metro Star	1999	5

Metro Star	2000	2
Metro Star	2001	1
Metro Star	2003	4
Metro Star	2004	1
Metro Star	2005	3
Metro Star	2007	3
Metro Star	2008	8
Metro Star	2009	27
Metro Star	2010	19
Specialty	1999	5
Specialty	2002	1
Specialty	2008	1
Specialty	2009	1
TOTAL:		898

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

Approximate Defect Percentage: 100%

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:

The recall population for this recall was determined by utilizing the option codes which identifies the rear axle weight rating, and the number of rear axles. The date of manufacturing is assigned when the it is completed in assembly.

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.

Service brake release time is greater than that of the requirement (.55) of 49CFR571.121 (FMVSS 121) section 5.4.3.4.

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

The inside diameter of the brake drop hoses is too small which reduces timing.

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

Service brake release timing slower than that of the requirements of FMVSS 121, may cause the vehicle to not be moved as quickly as it should.

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

There is no early detection method noticeable to the driver.

If the defect or noncompliance is in a component or assembly purchased from a supplier, identify the supplier by corporate name and address:	
Generic Component Name:	N/A
Supplier Part Number:	N/A
Spartan Part Number:	N/A
Supplier Corporate Name:	N/A
Address:	N/A
CEO or Knowledgeable Rep:	N/A

IV. PROVIDE THE CHRONOLOGY IN DETERMINING THE DEFECT/NONCOMPLIANCE

If the recall is for a defect, complete item 6, otherwise item 7

6. If defect, furnish a chronological summary with dates of all the principle events that were the basis for the determination of the defect. Include number of reports, accidents, injuries, fatalities, and warranty claims.

N/A

7. If noncompliance, identify and provide the test results or other data in chronological order with dates on which the noncompliance was determined.

11/18/2009 - One unit of the suspect configuration was identified to have a service brake release timing that was greater than the requirement in FMVSS 121.

2/18/2010 - Production unit was tested to confirm the findings in November. Test showed the service brake release timing was up to 25% higher than the requirement of FMVSS 121.

5/21/2010 - Production was tested and confirmed the problem existed and the remedy was validated.

5/27/2010 - The aforementioned information was presented to Compliance in the Corrective Action Review Meeting. Compliance acknowledged and advised the situation is a recall.

6/10/2010 - During continuation of auditing units that were built without ESC, a test result indicated other units equipped with tandem axles but not ESC may be suspect.

6/11/2010 - The method to test each product variation is identified and implemented. A review of previous test records indicated the scope of the non-conformance may be increased.

6/18/2010 - Third party test facility summonsed to provide a timing test due to variations in test method and test results.

6/30/2010 - Verbal results from third party test results in a "fail."

7/6/2010 - Product Stop Ship is issued for known configurations that have been identified as non-compliant.

7/8/2010 - Second third party testing begins on site at Spartan to perform data acquisition and review of des

7/13/2010 - Testing is concluded and criteria is established for scope definition.

7/16/2010 - Scope of recall is defined, NHTSA is notified.

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.

For tandem axles equipped with drum brakes, the brake hoses will be changed from .38 inch inside diameter to a .50 inch inside diameter. Different part numbers for the hoses will be the key indicator.

For tandem axles equipped with disc brakes, a quick release valve will be installed, in the control line to the rear relay valve, in addition to the aforementioned remedy.

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

The recalled hose has a smaller inside diameter than that of the remedy. The quick release valve is an evident addition to the control line.

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.

Same as field remedy

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 this recall.

See below

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 concerning this recall from the time your company determines the defect or noncompliance condition on, not just the initial notification.

DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION	DATE AND MANNER SUBMITTED
Notification letter to other manufacturers	17-Sep-10
Draft Notification letter to purchasers	17-Sep-10
Press release (if applicable)	N/A
Recall Service Bulletin (RSB)	17-Sep-10
Notification Envelope	Preapproved

All documents to be faxed to 202-366-7882, then mailed.

The manufacturer's campaign identification number if not identical to the number assigned by NHTSA.

10012