

Safety Defect and Noncompliance Report Guide for Vehicles  
**PART 573 Defect and Noncompliance Responsibility and Reports**<sup>1</sup>

On November 04, 2010 Turtle Top [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 Responsibility and Reports**.

Date this report was prepared: November 04, 2010

Furnish the manufacturer's identification code for this recall (if applicable): Trans/Air (10E-028)

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.

Independent Protection Company, Inc., Turtle Top Division  
\_\_\_\_\_

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

Janet L. Kercher-Dudley, Standards Engineer  
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Telephone Number: (574)831-4340 X146 Fax No.: (574)831-4349

Name and Title of Person who prepared this report.  
Janet L. Kercher-Dudley, Standards Engineer  
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Signed:



<sup>1</sup> Each manufacturer must furnish a report, to the Associate Administrator for Enforcement, for each defect or noncompliance condition which relates to motor vehicle safety.

This guide was developed from 49 CFR Part 573, "Defect and Noncompliance Responsibility and Reports" and also outlines information currently requested. Any questions, please consult the complete Part 573 or contact Mr. George Person at (202) 366-5210, by FAX at (202) 366-7882, or by E-Mail to [RMD.ODI@dot.gov](mailto:RMD.ODI@dot.gov).

**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): Turtle Top Model Years Involved: 2000-2007 Model(s): see attached

Production Dates: Beginning: 08-02-1999 Ending: 09-01-2007

VIN Range: Beginning: Various Ending: Various

Vehicle Type: Bus Bodystyle: Transit Bus / MPV

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

Recalled vehicles have a Trans/Air TA-73 Evaporator.

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 Vehicles equipped with certain items of equipment from January 1, 1996 through April 1, 1997, then what was the percentage of the recalled Vehicles of all Vehicles manufactured during that time period.**

**II. Identify the Recall Population**

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

<b>Model</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Number of Vehicles Potentially Involved</b>
models and model years attached		

**Total Number Potentially Affected by the Recall:** 1817

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

Recalled vehicles have a Trans/Air TA-73 evaporator. Announcement on recalled equipment was sent to Turtle Top from Trans/Air with information on affected systems in the form of a service bulletin (#10-001). Based on this information from Trans Air, along with sales order information for specific vehicles where the recalled equipment parts were optioned into the sales order, Turtle Top was able to determine potential vehicles affected under this recall.

**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.**

Per Trans/Air's 573 report for recall 10E-028, affected evaporators "utilize a power resistor to regulate blower speed.

Should a short occur in the 'low or medium speed' circuit while the blower is in high speed, the short will cause the supply voltage to feedback through the resistor to ground, not drawing enough current to trip the fuse, but causing the resistor temperature to rise to a point where it will melt and possibly ignite the plastic blower housing to which it is mounted. Mis-installation, a maintenance error, or an error in installing an accessory could cause a short of the

**Describe the cause(s) of the defect or noncompliance condition.** 'low or medium speed' wire to ground."  
see above

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

From Trans/Air's 573 report, "an overheat situation or a possible source of ignition can occur".

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

From Trans/Air's 573 report, "smoke and/or a hot smell".

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

Trans/Air Manufacturing Corporation

480 East Locust Street P.O. Box 70

Dallastown, PA 17313-0070

(717)246-2627

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

Mark Slobodian, Vice President

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#### **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.**

From Trans/Air's 573 report, "no injuries or fatalities in any incident". There were two incidents, which when investigated, "showed that a screw, installed by the OEM, had inadvertently pierced either the low or medium speed control wire while the unit was operating in high speed, resulting in a short and causing the defect".

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#### **V. Identify the Remedy**

**8. A description of the manufacturer's program for remedying the defect or noncompliance. This program shall include a plan for reimbursing an owner or purchaser who incurred costs to obtain a remedy for the problem addressed by the recall within a reasonable time in advance of the manufacturer's notification of owners, purchasers and dealers, in accordance with §573.13 of this part. A manufacturer's plan may incorporate by reference a general reimbursement plan it previously submitted to NHTSA, together with information specific to the individual recall. Information required by §573.13 that is not in a general reimbursement plan shall be submitted in the manufacturer's report to NHTSA under this section. If a manufacturer submits one or more general reimbursement plans, the manufacturer shall update each plan every two years, in accordance with §573.13. The manufacturer's remedy program and reimbursement plans will be available for inspection by the public at NHTSA headquarters.**

As noted on Trans/Air's 573 Defect and Noncompliance Report on file with the NHTSA, "add a thermal shutdown device in series with the speed resistors". Trans/Air has developed a product improvement kit to address the issue. The repair includes installing thermal fuses to the resistor at the wire terminals. The repair will be provided to all end users at no charge at any Trans/Air service center. Both Turtle Top and Trans/Air will be working together to notify customers. Trans/Air has sent out letters to OEMs, dealers, and customers on record beginning 9/17/10. Turtle Top received notification from Trans/Air on 10/12/10. Turtle Top is in the process of finalizing a listing of owners on record and will cross-reference it with a supplied listing from Trans/Air on installation dates and suspected vehicles".

**9. Furnish a description of the manufacturer's remedy for the defect or noncompliance. Clearly describe the differences between the recall condition and the remedy.**

From Trans/Air's 573 report, " the production remedy instituted on 7/31/07 relocates the suspect resistor from the plastic blower housing to the heat sink metal top panel".

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

Trans/Air's characteristics of the remedy versus the recalled equipment stated in question #9 above.

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**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.**

The recall condition was corrected in production according to Trans/Air's 573 Defect and Noncompliance Report on file with the NHTSA.

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**VI. Identify the Recall Schedule**

**10. 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.**

Once Turtle Top's 573 Defect and Noncompliance Report and accompanying Draft Notification Letter has been approved by the NHTSA ODI, then Turtle Top's customers will be notified of the safety recall. Turtle Top is still in the process of finalizing owners on record.

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## **VII. Furnish Recall Communications**

**11. 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) or by E-Mail to RMD.ODI@dot.gov for review prior to mailing.**

**Note that these documents are to be submitted separately from those provided in accordance with Part 579.5 requirements.**

**Trans Air TA-73 Evaporator Recall 10E-028  
Affected Turtle Top Vehicles**

<b>Model</b>	<b>Model Year</b>	<b># of Vehicles Potentially Involved</b>
FORD LIMO COACH	2001	3
FORD LIMO COACH	2002	1
FORD LIMO COACH	2005	3
FORD MPV	2001	2
FORD MPV	2002	3
FORD MPV	2004	2
FORD MPV	2005	1
FORD MPV	2006	2
FORD MPV BUS	2001	3
FORD MPV BUS	2002	3
FORD MPV BUS	2003	1
FORD MPV BUS	2004	1
FORD MPV BUS	2005	1
FORD ODYSSEY	2002	16
FORD ODYSSEY	2003	110
FORD ODYSSEY	2004	93
FORD ODYSSEY	2005	86
FORD ODYSSEY	2006	157
FORD ODYSSEY	2007	119
FORD ODYSSEY XL	2004	2
FORD TERRA TRANSIT	2000	215
FORD TERRA TRANSIT	2001	276
FORD TERRA TRANSIT	2002	123
FORD TERRA TRANSIT	2003	76
FORD TERRA TRANSIT	2005	155
FORD TERRA TRANSIT	2004	137
FORD TERRA TRANSIT	2006	11
GM LIMO COACH	2001	1
GM MPV BUS	2001	1
GM MPV BUS	2002	2
GM MPV BUS	2004	1
GM MPV BUS	2005	1
GM MPV BUS	2006	2
GM MPV BUS	2007	2
GM ODYSSEY	2006	9
GM ODYSSEY	2007	9
GM ODYSSEY XL	2004	7
GM ODYSSEY XL	2005	13
GM ODYSSEY XL	2006	23
GM ODYSSEY XL	2007	31
GM TERRA TRANSIT	2000	45
GM TERRA TRANSIT	2001	41
GM TERRA TRANSIT	2002	12
GM TERRA TRANSIT	2003	5
GM TERRA TRANSIT	2005	7
GM TERRA TRANSIT	2006	3
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>1817</b>