



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

1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

March 25, 2011

MR. WES CHESTNUT
SENIOR COMPLIANCE ANALYST
SPARTAN CHASSIS, INC.
1000 REYNOLDS ROAD
CHARLOTTE, MI 48813

NVS-215dgl
11V-187

SUBJECT: AUTOMATIC SLACK ADJUSTER/ACCURIDE/GUNITE

DEAR MR. CHESTNUT:

This letter serves to acknowledge Spartan Chassis, Inc.'s (Spartan) notification to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) of a safety recall campaign which 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:
SPARTAN/GLADIATOR/2008
SPARTAN/GLADIATOR/2010-2011
SPARTAN/METROSTAR/2010

NHTSA Campaign Number: 11V-187

Mfg's Report Date: March 17, 2011

Components: SERVICE BRAKES, AIR: SLACK ADJUSTERS: AUTOMATIC

Potential Number of Units Affected: 12

Summary:

SPARTAN IS RECALLING CERTAIN MODEL YEAR 2008, 2010, AND 2011 GLADIATOR, AS WELL AS MODEL YEAR 2010 METROSTAR VEHICLES MANUFACTURED FROM MARCH 4, 2009 THROUGH FEBRUARY 22, 2011, AND EQUIPPED WITH GUNITE AUTOMATIC SLACK ADJUSTERS. DUE TO AN INCOMPLETE "KNITTING" OF THE IRON AT THE TIME OF CASTING, INADEQUATE STRUCTURAL INTEGRITY OF THE SLACK ADJUSTER HOUSING CAN OCCUR, WHICH COULD CAUSE THE HOUSING TO BREAK AT THE HANDLE UNDER NORMAL OPERATING LOADS.

Consequence:

SLACK ADJUSTERS WITH THIS FLOW NOTCH COULD CRACK UNDER NORMAL BRAKING CONDITIONS CAUSING LOSS OF BRAKING WHICH COULD RESULT IN A VEHICLE CRASH.

Remedy:

SPARTAN WILL NOTIFY OWNERS AND DEALERS WILL REPLACE THE SUBJECT SLACK ADJUSTERS FREE OF CHARGE. THE SAFETY RECALL IS EXPECTED TO BEGIN ON OR BEFORE MARCH 25, 2011. OWNERS MAY CONTACT SPARTAN CHASSIS AT 1-800-543-5008, OPTION 5.

Notes:

SPARTAN'S RECALL CAMPAIGN NUMBER IS 11006. 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).

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 one month after the close of the calendar quarter in which notification to purchasers occurs. Therefore, the first quarterly report will be due on or before 30 days after the close of the calendar quarter.

Your contact for this recall will be Delia Lopez who may be reached by phone at 202-366-9525, or by email at Delia.lopez@dot.gov, or through the office email at RMD.ODI@dot.gov. We look forward to working with you toward a successful completion of this recall campaign.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jennifer Timian". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Jennifer Timian
Chief, Recall Management Division
Office of Defects Investigation
Enforcement