

Safety Defect and Noncompliance Report Guide for Vehicles
PART 573 Defect and Noncompliance Responsibility and Reports¹

On February 7, 2011, Starcraft Bus [MFR] decided that (a defect which relates to motor vehicle safety)(a noncompliance with Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard No. 571.221) 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: February 11, 2011

Furnish the manufacturer's identification code for this recall (if applicable): _____

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.

Starcraft Bus

Division of Forest River Inc.

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

Vincent Cline

Engineering Manager - School Bus Division

Telephone Number: 800-348-7440 ext.103 Fax No.: 574-642-7816

Name and Title of Person who prepared this report.

Vincent Cline

Engineering Manager - School Bus Division

Signed:



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

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): Starcraft Bus Model Years Involved: 2008-2011 Model(s): Prodigy/Quest

Production Dates: Beginning: 10/20/08 Ending: 01/18/11

VIN Range: Beginning: 1GBJG31K381231714 Ending: 1GB3G3BG3B1106464

Vehicle Type: _____ Bodystyle: _____

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

This recall involves all Prodigy and Quest models produced from 2008 thru January 18, 2011.

This recall does not involve commercial vehicles.

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.

Model	Year	Number of Vehicles Potentially Involved
Prodigy	2008	24
Quest	2008	0
Prodigy	2009	393
Quest	2009	341
Prodigy	2010	159
Quest	2010	448
Prodigy	2011	4
Quest	2011	16
Total Number Potentially Affected by the Recall:		1385

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

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 was determined by the production schedule. There was no inspection process in place prior to the recall, therefore the total number of vehicles effected is unknown, and is the reason Starcraft Bus is prepared to repair all Prodigy and Quest models that were produced between the dates of 10/20/08 thru 1/18/11.

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.

The noncompliance involves the interior and exterior aluminum body panels. The body panels could be missing a structural

adhesive that was used during testing the joint strength of those overlapping panels.

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

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

Per FMVSS 571.221; In the event of a crash, serious injuries or death can occur as a result of the structural collapse of the school bus body panels.

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

N/A

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

N/A

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

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.

January 18, 2011 - Starcraft Bus received a letter from Patrice Moore of BLF Technologies Inc to inform Starcraft Bus that a vehicle was going to be tested to certain Federal safety standards. While putting together the requested documentation, Starcraft Bus performed a line audit and discovered that the sidewall panels and other interior panels were being installed without a structural adhesive being applied prior to going onto the bus body.

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.

Starcraft bus is going to work in conjunction with our certified dealer network and deliver process documentation on how to do the repairs in the field. Furthermore, Starcraft bus will send out a team or teams to our dealer locations to expedite the process so the customers can get their vehicles back into service in a reasonable time frame.

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.

The remedy for the noncompliance on the exterior body panels is to add structural fasteners at all applicable body panels at a space of 1" on center. The previous fastener spacing was 1 structural rivet about every 14". The remedy for the noncompliance on the interior ceiling panels is to take down the ceiling panels at the overlapping joint and add a structural adhesive to that panel joint and then re-fasten the panels at their current location.

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

The remedied exterior sidewall panels will have a structural rivet place at every inch along the panel joints. The recalled exterior panels will have less structural rivets along the panel joints. The interior ceiling panels will not have visible distinguishing characteristics.

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 on February 7, 2011. Production has been instructed verbally on how to properly secure panels with use of adhesive and structural rivets. A written procedure will be completed during the week of February 14, 2011 as well as adding an inspection process on line in the areas of where the sidewall panels are put onto the vehicles.

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.

Testing has been completed for the field fix. The written procedures will be completed during the week of February 14th 2011. Once parts are received to send out for the field fix, and pending approval from NHTSA Starcraft Bus will send out the recall notice to our customers and begin fixing those units in the field.

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.