



Timothy J. Nalepka  
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March 21, 2011

**BY EMAIL AND**  
**BY CERTIFIED MAIL**

Associate Administrator for Enforcement  
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration  
Attention: Recall Management Division (NVS – 215)  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE.  
Washington, DC 20590

**Re: PART 573 NOTICE RE ARVINMERITOR TAG AXLE BOLTS (11E-007)**

Dear Sir or Madam:

I have enclosed Motor Coach Industries, Inc.'s ("MCI") Part 573 Defect and Noncompliance Report in the referenced matter. MCI's proposed customer notification letter, draft Service Bulletin 358, and sample envelope and mailing label will be sent shortly under separate cover.

Please confirm receipt of this notice and provide NHTSA's reference number. Thanks for your assistance with this matter.

Sincerely,  
MOTOR COACH INDUSTRIES, INC.

By: Timothy J. Nalepka  
Senior Vice President &  
General Counsel

Enclosure

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

On March 8, 2011, Motor Coach Industries, Inc. decided that a defect which relates to motor vehicle safety 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 Reports.

Date this report was prepared: **March 21, 2011**

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

**MCI Service Bulletin 358**

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.

**Motor Coach Industries, Inc.  
1700 E. Golf Road  
Suite 300  
Schaumburg, IL 60173**

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

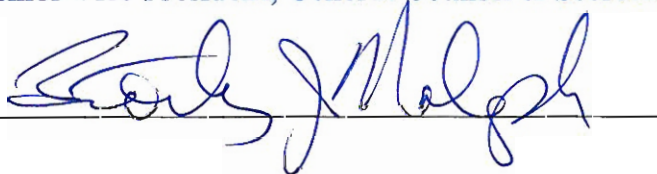
**Jim Macdonald, Executive Director, Engineering**

Telephone Number: (204) 287-4949      Fax No.: (204) 478-2867

Name and Title of Person who prepared this report.

**Timothy J. Nalepka  
Senior Vice President, General Counsel & Secretary**

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_



## 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:**

All 2011 MCI J4500 model coaches equipped with ArvinMeritor MC16 TAG axles in the affected VIN range.

Make(s): MCI  
Model Years and Models Involved: 2011 J4500

Production Dates:

1. 2011 J4500 Beginning: December 2010 Ending: February 2011

VIN Range:

1. 2011 J4500 Beginning: 65744 Ending: 65815

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

MCI 2011 J4500 motor coaches that have an ArvinMeritor MC16 tag axle bearing a serial number identified by ArvinMeritor as within the scope of ArvinMeritor's recall (see attached ArvinMeritor customer letter dated March 8, 2011).

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

The recall population is 100% of the J4500 series coach population produced during the time period referenced above.

## II. Identify the Recall Population

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

Model	Model Year	# of Vehicles Potentially Involved
J4500	2011	51

**Total Number Potentially Affected by the Recall: 51**

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

100%

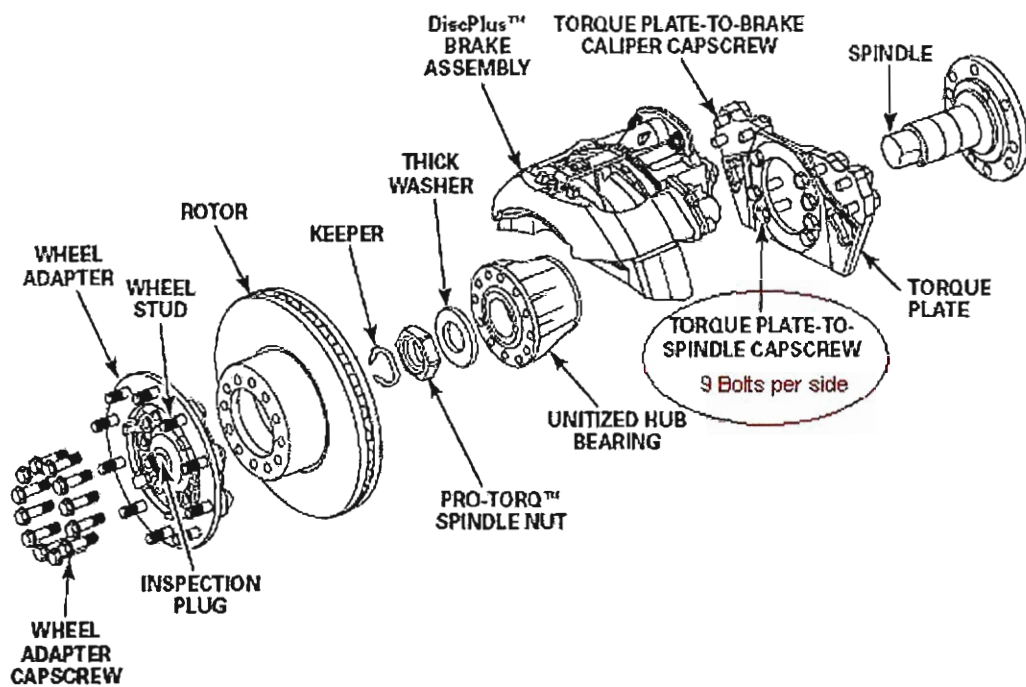
**Identify and describe how the recall population was determined--in particular how the recalled models were selected and the basis for the beginning and final dates of manufacture of the recalled vehicles:**

The recall population is the 2011 MCI J4500 motor coaches equipped with an ArvinMeritor MC16 Trailing (TAG) axle bearing a serial number identified by ArvinMeritor as within the scope of ArvinMeritor's recall (see attached ArvinMeritor customer letter dated March 8, 2011).

### **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.**

ArvinMeritor reports that one of its suppliers, General Fastener, has advised that the bolts on the MC16 tag axle that connects the axle housing (torque plate) to the spindle may not have not been properly heat treated, resulting in potentially compromised hardness and strength that, in turn, could lead to reduced joint integrity. Please see the attached ArvinMeritor customer letter dated March 8, 2011 for further information.



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

Improper heat treatment of bolts.

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

ArvinMeritor reports that improper bolt heat treatment can potentially affect the bolt hardness and strength, that in turn could lead to reduced joint integrity and fatigue failure of the bolts. Bolt failure could result in a wheel coming off of the coach's tag axle.

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

There may be no warning prior to the occurrence of an incident.

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

ArvinMeritor  
 2135 W Maple Road  
 Troy, Michigan 48084-7186

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

Nirav Parikh  
Regional Quality Manager & Project Manager  
Product Safety and Compliance  
ArvinMeritor

Frank Cookson  
Service Manager  
ArvinMeritor

#### 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 principal 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.

On March 8, 2011, MCI received the attached notice from ArvinMeritor advising that a defect relating to motor vehicle safety exists in certain bolts supplied by ArvinMeritor's supplier, General Fastener Corporation, and assembled into ArvinMeritor MC16 type TAG axles. On March 8, 2011, MCI also received the attached ArvinMeritor's technical bulletin TP-1156 detailing the removal and replacement of the suspect bolts. After review by MCI Engineering of the information provided by ArvinMeritor, MCI determined that the affected MCI coaches should be recalled to remedy the defect identified by ArvinMeritor.

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.

N/A

#### 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.

ArvinMeritor recommends that all potentially affected axles be repaired in accordance with the attached ArvinMeritor's technical publication TP-1156, at ArvinMeritor's expense.

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

No discernible difference will be observed.

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.

ArvinMeritor advises that the suspect bolts were shipped to its customers during the period of October 21, 2010 and December 6, 2010, and has provided MCI with a list of serial numbers of the potentially affected axles.

#### VI. Identify the Recall Schedule

9. 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.

MCI anticipates sending notifications to customers within one week after receiving approval by NHTSA of MCI's draft customer notification.

#### VII. Furnish Recall Communications

10. 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) for review prior to mailing.*

MCI's proposed customer notification letter and Service Bulletin 358 will be sent under separate cover.

Note that these documents are to be submitted separately from those provided in accordance with Part 573.8 requirements.