

RECEIVED

By Recall Management Division at 9:14 am, Mar 01, 2012

February 28, 2012

Ms. Nancy Lewis,
Associate Administrator for Enforcement,
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration,
Attn: Recall Management Division (NVS-215)
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Subject: **Amended 573 Notice to NHTSA**

Dear Ms. Lewis,

Ride Control, LLC, which brands products under the name Gabriel®, has decided that a defect which relates to motor vehicle safety exists in certain front ReadyMount™ Assemblies. In compliance with 49 CFR 573, Ride Control is filing this Defect Information Report.

§ 573.6(c)

(1) The manufacturer's name:

- Ride Control, LLC
950 Maplelawn
Troy, MI. 48084

Contact for this recall is Dennis Dicosola, Director – Customer Quality and Warranty at Ride Control, LLC.

Phone Number: (248) 247-7500

Fax Number: (248) 247-7540

Email: dennis.dicosola@gabriel.com

(2) Identification of the items of motor vehicle equipment potentially containing the defect

Ride Control part numbers for the ReadyMount Assemblies are 746641MT and 746646MT. Some of these parts are branded as Gabriel parts with part numbers G56944 and G56945. Some Assemblies are privately branded PartsMaster®, having G68944 and G 68945 as their part numbers.

None of the items of equipment are purchased by vehicle manufacturers for use as original equipment. These assemblies are front left and right ReadyMount Assemblies for use on the 2000-2005 Ford Focus.

(3) The total number of items of equipment potentially containing the defect:

There were 10,006 units shipped by Ride Control, LLC to customers for resale as replacement parts in the aftermarket.

(4) The percentage of items of equipment recalled expected to contain the defect.

Based on containment in-house and field sampling, the current estimate of items of equipment recalled expected to contain the defect is approximately 27%.

(5) A description of the defect:

Ride Control, LLC has decided that a defect which relates to motor vehicle safety exists in front ReadyMount Assemblies. Certain of these assemblies were assembled with a nut without a necessary washer. The absence of the washer can allow the ReadyMount Assembly to pull apart the top mount. If the assembly separates during installation, it could result in injury to the installer. If the Assembly is on the vehicle, the driver may notice a rattle or rubbing noise coming from the front suspension area. In addition, there may be higher than normal steering efforts, decreased ride performance, or some difficulty in maintaining vehicle directional control. If the assembly separated while the vehicle was moving, it could result in secondary damage to surrounding vehicle components, which may result in a crash.

(6) A chronology of events that led to the determination:

- 02/14/12 Ride Control received a phone call at 6:00PM through its Answerman process indicating that an installer was injured while installing G56945/746646MT Front ReadyMount on a Ford Focus at a Midas shop in Rockford IL.
- 02/15/12 Ride Control called the manager of the Midas shop to understand the situation. The manager indicated that the unit separated between the top mount and the nut that holds the unit together and struck

- the installer on the shoulder. Ride Control requested the part on an expedited basis.
- 2/16/12 The subject part was received in Troy. Ride Control began the engineering evaluation of the ReadyMount Assembly and established that the root cause of the separation occurred because of a misinterpretation of the assembly drawings that ultimately resulted in a missing washer in the assembly process.
 - 2/16/12 Ride Control decided that an issue related to motor vehicle safety existed and to conduct a safety recall.
 - 2/16/12 Ride Control informed Customers that based on returned part analysis and testing performed there was sufficient evidence to warrant a recall of Ride Control LLC part numbers G56944/G68944 (746641MT) and G56945/G68945 (746646MT) from the field.

(8) Description of the plan for Remediating the Defect

Ride Control plans to repurchase and replace the affected parts in inventory. To the extent that the parts are already installed on a vehicle, Ride Control has set up procedures to repair or replace the affected parts without charge to the vehicle owner.

(10) A representative copy of all notices and bulletins

Attached are copies of Ride Control's proposed notices and bulletins.

(11) Manufacturer's campaign number:

Ride Control intends to use the campaign number assigned by NHTSA (12E-007).

573.13 Ride Control believes that all parts are covered by warranty. It is our intent to reimburse any customers who experienced this issue prior to the recall.

This report was sent by e-mail to RMD.ODI@dot.gov and Kelly Schuler.

Sincerely,

Dennis Dicosola
Director - Customer Quality and Warranty
Ride Control, LLC

cc. Ms. Kelly Schuler (by e-mail)
Stephen E. Selander, Selander Law Office, PLLC (by e-mail)