

Safety Defect and Noncompliance Report Guide for Vehicles**PART 573 Defects and Noncompliance Report**Date: **February 5, 2014**

This report serves as Marathon Coach, Inc.'s notification to the U.S. Department of Transportation, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration that a defect related to motor vehicle safety exists in certain Marathon Coach Conversions. Marathon Coach, Inc. has decided that this defect existed in these vehicles on January 30, 2014.

I. Manufacturer, Designated Agent, and Other Chain of Distribution InformationManufacturer's corporate name: **Marathon Coach, Inc.**Vehicle brand: **Marathon Conversions**Designated Agent: **N/A**

Defective component manufactured by:

**Sure Power, Inc.
114 Old State Road
Ellisville, MO 63021
Phone: 636-207-3264**

Name, address, email, and phone and fax numbers for the person(s) to whom inquiries about this report should be directed:

**Marathon Coach, Inc.
91333 Coburg Industrial Way
Coburg, OR 97408
Attn: Matthew Matlach
Email: mattm@marathoncoach.com
Phone: 352-588-4500**Manufacturer's assigned campaign number: **N/A****II. Identification of the Recall Population and Its Size**Make: **Marathon Coach**Model: **Prevost Conversions**Model Year(s): **2001 - 2013**Inclusive dates of manufacture: **September 2001 through April 2012**Body Style/Type: **Prevost XL Motorcoach Bus Conversion**Total number of these vehicles: **233**

Make: **Marathon Coach**
Model: **Prevost Conversions**
Model Year(s): **2001 - 2013**
Inclusive dates of manufacture: **September 2001 through April 2012**
Body Style/type: **Prevost H3 Motorcoach Bus Conversion**
Total number of these vehicles: **212**

Grand total number of equalizers affected: **450**

The percentage of the recall population containing the defect: **100 %**

How the recall population was determined: **Sure Power Incorporated provided the component model number and manufacturing dates. Marathon reviewed coaches converted during this time frame to determine total number of coaches affected.**

III. Description of the Defect or Noncompliance and Chronology of Events

Description of Defect: **Sure Power Inc. (according to their recall 13E-050) has decided that a defect which relates to motor vehicle safety exists in battery equalizers and DC-DC converters that have been sold through after market distribution channels for installation in vehicles with 24v / 12v dual voltage electrical systems, including buses, over the road trucks and other specialty vehicle applications. The specific potting compound used in the subject products for installation was found to be capable of conducting electricity once exposed to significant thermal energy. Once electrically conductive the material is capable of self-heating and maintaining temperatures capable of accelerating a thermal incident. Thermal energy can be sourced by various electrical failures, and Sure Power is still investigating whether there are applications-specific contributions to the risk of failure. Electrical failures have been traced to water intrusion or solder joint fatigue resulting from ongoing expansion and contraction due to thermal cycling.**

Safety consequences of this defect: **Confirmed incidents to date have demonstrated smoking or flame at the affected part with additional damage limited to adjacent/connected parts such as wire harnesses and cables.**

Warnings that may precede the defect: **The failure mechanism is not detectable and no warning is given prior to thermal failure.**

Dated chronological summary of all principle events that are the basis for the determination that the defect is related to motor vehicle safety: **Received preliminary product(s) safety recall notice from Sure Power, Inc. dated September 10, 2013.**

IV. The Remedy Program and Its Schedule

Program for remedying the defect: **Sure Power Inc. will provide replacement components to Marathon Coach Inc. who will install them at no charge to the customer at one of their three service centers.**

Estimated dates on which owner notifications will be issued and estimated dates for completion of those notifications: **Letters will be sent to all owners of record following NHTSA approval. Installation of replacement equalizers to start as soon as product is received. Completion of replacement of equalizers on all affected coaches to be completed as soon as possible.**

Distinguishing characteristics of new equalizers versus the recalled units: **We have not seen a replacement unit as of this date.**