

Part 573 Safety Recall Report**14V-575**

Manufacturer Name : Turtle Top
Submission Date : SEP 18,2014
NHTSA Recall No. : 14V-575
Manufacturer Recall No. : Equipment #14E-034

**Manufacturer Information :**

Manufacturer Name : Turtle Top
Address : 67819 State Road 15
New Paris IN 46553
Company phone : 574-831-4340

Population :

Number of potentially involved : 2
Estimated percentage with defect : 100

Vehicle Information :

Vehicle : 2013-2013 Turtle Top Odyssey XL
Vehicle Type : BUSES, MEDIUM & HEAVY VEHICLES
Body Style : OTHER
Power Train : GAS
Descriptive Information : Turtle Top Odyssey XL buses built on Ford Motor Company F-550 chassis.
Production Dates : JAN 29, 2013 - JUL 09, 2013

VIN (Vehicle Identification Number) Range

Begin : NR

End : NR

 Not sequential VINs

Description of Defect :

Description of the Defect : The LiquidSpring suspension system component affected is the fluid volume mount bracket. The bracket may develop a fracture such that bracket separates from the chassis frame and is unable to provide support for the fluid volume at the bracket location. Affected suspension model number DS147F-B2. (From LiquidSpring's Part 573 Defect and Noncompliance Report).

Description of the Safety Risk : The consequence of the defect can be a complete fracture in the fluid volume mount bracket such that the fluid volume becomes unsupported by the bracket at the fractured bracket location and hose connection. Continued vehicle use in this fluid volume support condition with the hose connections only may result in the fluid volume contacting the ground which could cause damage to the chassis and/or other vehicles and possibly result in a crash. (From LiquidSpring's Part 573 Defect and Noncompliance Report).

Description of the Cause : The cause of the defect is material fatigue in a portion of the fluid volume mount bracket due to application load conditions. More severe duty service conditions increase the likelihood of fracture initiation and propagation. (From LiquidSpring's Part 573 Defect and Noncompliance Report).

Identification of Any Warning that can Occur : The fracture in the fluid volume mount bracket can be detected in early initiation and propagation states prior to complete fracture of the bracket. (From LiquidSpring's Part 573 Defect and Noncompliance Report).

Supplier Identification :**Component Manufacturer**

Name : LiquidSpring LLC

Address : 3416 Rascal Drive

Lafayette IN 47909

Country : US

Chronology :

From LiquidSpring's Part 573 Defect and Noncompliance Report: April 9, 2014 - first instance of a fractured bracket reported by customer. Customer performed weld repair and was supplied a replacement bracket. April 18, 2014 - second instance of customer reported fracture of volume mount bracket. April 28, 2014 - returned fractured brackets analyzed and it was determined that the fracture was occurring at a particular location on the bracket and exhibited material fatigue. May 1, 2014 - volume mount bracket design review based on analysis. June 23, 2014 - field review of brackets on a different vehicle from the second customer and one bracket found to have a fracture; all brackets on vehicle replaced with re-designed brackets.

Description of Remedy :

Description of Remedy Program : From LiquidSpring's Part 573 Defect and Noncompliance Report: Field replacements are planned. LiquidSpring will cover all expenses related to replacement of the original fluid volume mount brackets with the re-designed version of the bracket.

How Remedy Component Differs from Recalled Component : From LiquidSpring's Part 573 Defect and Noncompliance Report: the re-designed fluid volume mount bracket is readily distinguished from the original bracket.

Identify How/When Recall Condition was Corrected in Production : From LiquidSpring's Part 573 Defect and Noncompliance Report: re-designed fluid volume mount bracket re-designed and implemented in production on or after May 14, 2014.

Recall Schedule :

Description of Recall Schedule : From LiquidSpring's Part 573 Defect and Noncompliance Report: July 21, 2014 - mailed formal safety recall notice to dealer / end users. July 28, 2014 - followed up with contact with dealers / end users regarding inspection and scheduling replacement of brackets. Turtle Top received a letter dated August 14, 2014 in regards to identifying end users on record which may have affected vehicles with the brackets needing replaced. Turtle Top sent LiquidSpring owners names on September 5, 2014 for the two affected vehicles. LiquidSpring mailed owner notification letters in regards to the safety defect on Turtle Top's behalf on September 9th and LiquidSpring will also contact owners via phone call to arrange installation of brackets.

Planned Dealer Notification Date : NR - NR

Planned Owner Notification Date : SEP 05, 2014 - SEP 09, 2014

* NR - Not Reported