

Associate Administrator for Enforcement  
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration  
Att: Recall Management Division (NVS-215)  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, D.C. 20590  
USA

via ODI Recall Portal

Koningshooikt, October 14th, 2014

## Amended Defect Information Report relating to Van Hool Motorcoaches – Steering Knuckle Carriers

Dear Associate Administrator for Enforcement,

Pursuant to Part 573 of Title 49 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Van Hool N.V. hereby notifies NHTSA of the intention to recall the Van Hool motorcoaches identified below.

- (1) Manufacturer: **Van Hool N.V.**  
Designated Agent: **ABC Bus Companies, Inc.**
- (2) (ii) Identification of the vehicles containing the defect:

Make: <b>Van Hool</b>
Model: <b>TD925</b>
Model Year(s): <b>2011; 2012; 2013</b>
Inclusive dates of manufacture : <b>12/17/2010 – 02/14/2013</b>
Body Style/type : <b>Motorcoach</b>
Other information necessary to describe these vehicles : <b>buses</b> <b>Number of passengers: max. 81; Front GAWR of 17640 lb or higher</b>

- (3) Total number of vehicles affected: **158.**
- (4) Percentage of vehicle affected: **56 %.**
- (5) Description of the defect : **The material of certain front steering knuckle carriers produced from August 2009 to March 2011, may not meet the requirements for a GAWR of 17640 lb or higher. Early fatigue may lead to cracks and finally loss of functionality. The driver might feel some vibrations in the steering wheel. In case of total failure however, a wheel could separate from the coach, which can cause a crash.**

- (6) Chronology of principal events: **Early June a customer notified Van Hool of the broken LH front steering knuckle carrier of a coach with a front axle GAWR of 18180 lb. The defective parts were disassembled, shipped, checked and then sent to a certified lab for investigation of the material. The report of August 19th revealed a bad composition of the cast iron material. On August 23rd a second incident with a broken LH front steering knuckle carrier of a coach with a front axle GAWR of 18180 lb, was notified to Van Hool. Also these parts were shipped and sent to the certified lab. The report of September 11th indicated a bad material structure. Extensive testing on this type of front steering knuckle carrier is ongoing and reveals already that the front axle GAWR of 17640 lb or higher increases the possibility of early fatigue and loss of functionality, and hence the affected carriers need to be replaced immediately.**
- (8) (i) Remedy Program: **Van Hool recalls the coaches from model year 2011 to 2013 with a front axle GAWR of 17640 lb or higher, in order to identify the front steering knuckle carriers and replace them immediately if they are affected. Our designated agent ABC Bus, Inc. will notify Van Hool motorcoach owners of the above mentioned vehicles by mail sent to their addresses and conduct the recall free of charge.**
- (ii) Remedy Schedule: **The owner notifications will be issued within 30 days.**
- (10) Representative copy of communications: **Copy of owner notification letter and service bulletin will be submitted for review before mailing.**
- (11) Manufacturer's assigned campaign number : **P732.**

Please confirm receipt of this notice and provide NHTSA's reference number. Thank you.

Yours sincerely,  
Van Hool N.V.

Jan Van Hool  
Director

Pascale Reyntjens  
Compliance and Regulations