

**Part 573 Safety Recall Report****15V-187****Manufacturer Name :** Forest River, Inc.**Submission Date :** MAR 26,2015**NHTSA Recall No. :** 15V-187**Manufacturer Recall No. :** 15V-082**Manufacturer Information :**

Manufacturer Name : Forest River, Inc.

Address : 55470 CR 1

P.O. Box 3030 Elkhart IN 46515-3030

Company phone : 219-533-5934

**Population :**

Number of potentially involved : 378

Estimated percentage with defect : 0

**Vehicle Information :**

Vehicle : 2015-2015 Forest River - Coachmen Mercedes-Benz Sprinter

Vehicle Type : BUSES, MEDIUM &amp; HEAVY VEHICLES

Body Style : VAN

Power Train : DIESEL

**Descriptive Information :** The Model Year 2015 Sprinter vehicles require an abutting wedge at the B-pillar to assist in opening the doors after a severe frontal impact crash. The abutting wedge may have been installed incorrectly on your vehicle. If a vehicle with an incorrectly installed abutting wedge is involved in a severe frontal collision, it may require significantly greater forces to open the doors, increasing the risk of injury. An authorized Mercedes-Benz Sprinter dealer will check the installation of the abutting wedge, and if found incorrect will correct the abutting wedge installation and replace the mounting bolts.

Mercedes-Benz-USA is handling the recall and fix. Forest River is acknowledging the recall as it pertains to Forest River.

Production Dates : JUL 01, 2014 - OCT 14, 2014

**VIN (Vehicle Identification Number) Range**

Begin : NR

End : NR

 Not sequential VINs**Description of Defect :**

**Description of the Defect :** Daimler AG (DAG) has determined that due to the NAFTA specific vehicle types and NAFTA specific crashworthiness requirements, the Model year 2015 vehicles were produced with an abutting wedge at the B-pillar necessary to meet the internal requirements concerning door opening forces after crash-testing conditions with a severe frontal impact.

DAG has determined that despite existing assembly instructions, individual worker errors could have led to an incorrectly installed abutting wedge in certain vehicles

in the affected production range. In these cases the abutting wedge may have been attached to the B-pillar with an improper orientation.

Mercedes-Benz-USA is handling the recall and fix. Forest River is acknowledging the recall as it pertains to Forest River.

**Description of the Safety Risk :** If a vehicle with an incorrectly installed abutting wedge is involved in an accident with a heavy frontal collision, it cannot be excluded that significantly greater forces are necessary to open the doors.

Mercedes-Benz-USA is handling the recall and fix. Forest River is acknowledging the recall as it pertains to Forest River.

**Description of the Cause :** DAG has determined that despite existing assembly instructions, individual worker errors could have led to an incorrectly installed abutting wedge in certain vehicles in the affected production range. In these cases the abutting wedge may have been attached to the B-pillar with an improper orientation.

**Identification of Any Warning that can Occur :** As the malfunction can only occur in an accident with heavy frontal collision, the customer does not receive advance warnings.

Mercedes-Benz-USA is handling the recall and fix. Forest River is acknowledging the recall as it pertains to Forest River.

**Supplier Identification :**

**Component Manufacturer**

Name : Mercedes-Benz USA, LLC - DBA Sprinter

Address : 8501 Palmetto Commerce Pkwy

Ladson FOREIGN STATES 29456

Country : NR

**Chronology :**

At the end of September 2014 DAG found two vehicles on the production line with an incorrectly assembled abutting wedge on the B-pillar. Further investigations were immediately started to determine the root cause. In October 2014 audits on the line were executed. An additional check with a stamp point in the finishing area was implemented to ensure the correct execution of the work instructions. Furthermore, the evaluation of the potential consequences of an incorrect assembly was started.

In November 2014 the internal rework process was started. Statistics of the reworked vehicles showed afterwards, that 1,6% of the vehicles in the plant had one of the two B-pillars the abutting wedge installed incorrectly.

In January 2015, DAG determined that the existence of a safety defect in the cases of a severe frontal collision in the affected vehicle population cannot be excluded.

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**Description of Remedy :**

Description of Remedy Program : Via its Mercedes-Benz service partners, DAG will conduct a voluntary safety recall to check the correct installation of the abutting wedges and correct them if necessary.

Mercedes-Benz-USA is handing the recall and fix. Forest River is acknowledging the recall as it pertains to Forest River.

How Remedy Component Differs from Recalled Component : The affected part will be installed with the correct orientation.

Mercedes-Benz-USA is handing the recall and fix. Forest River is acknowledging the recall as it pertains to Forest River.

Identify How/When Recall Condition was Corrected in Production : At the end of September 2014 DAG found two vehicles on the production line with an incorrectly assembled abutting wedge on the B-pillar. Further investigations were immediately started to determine the root cause.

In October 2014 audits on the line were executed. An additional check with a stamp point in the finishing area was implemented to ensure the correct execution of the work instructions. Furthermore, the evaluation of the potential consequences of an incorrect assembly was started.

Mercedes-Benz-USA is handing the recall and fix. Forest River is acknowledging the recall as it pertains to Forest River.

**Recall Schedule :**

Description of Recall Schedule : NR

Planned Dealer Notification Date : NR - NR

Planned Owner Notification Date : NR - NR

\* NR - Not Reported