



U.S. Department of Transportation
**National Highway Traffic Safety
Administration**

1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

September 21, 2016

Mr. Wesley Chestnut
Spartan Motors USA
1541 Reynolds Road
Charlotte, MI 48813

NEF-150KS
16V-639

Subject: Driver's Seat May Recline Unexpectedly

Dear Mr. Chestnut:

This letter serves to acknowledge Spartan Motors USA's notification to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) of a safety recall which will be conducted pursuant to Federal law for the product(s) listed below. Please review the following information to ensure that it conforms to your records as this information is being made available to the public. If the information does not agree with your records, please contact us immediately to discuss your concerns.

Makes/Models/Model Years:

UTILIMASTER/WALK-IN VAN/2016

Mfr's Report Date: September 1, 2016

NHTSA Campaign Number: 16V-639

Components:

SEATS:FRONT ASSEMBLY:RECLINER

Potential Number of Units Affected: 151

Problem Description:

Spartan Motors USA (Spartan) is recalling certain model year 2016 Utilimaster Walk-In Vans manufactured January 1, 2016, to August 24, 2016 and equipped with a reclining style seat. The driver's seat on the affected vehicles may recline unexpectedly.

Consequence:

Unexpected reclining of the driver's seat may affect the driver's ability to control the vehicle, increasing the risk of a crash. Additionally, if the seat fails in a crash, the seat occupant would be at a greater risk of injury.

Remedy:

Utilimaster will notify owners, and dealers will replace the seat with a non-reclining one, free of charge. The manufacturer has not yet provided a notification schedule. Owners may contact Utilimaster customer service at 1-800-582-3454. Spartan's number for this recall is 16023.

Notes:

Owners may also contact the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration Vehicle Safety Hotline at 1-888-327-4236 (TTY 1-800-424-9153), or go to www.safercar.gov.

We have received Spartan's proposed owner notification letter and it is currently under review. You will be notified of any changes or concerns once our review is complete.

Please be reminded of the following requirements:

Copies of all notices, bulletins, dealer notifications, and other communications that relate to this recall, including a copy of the final owner notification letter and any subsequent owner follow-up notification letter(s), are required to be submitted to this office no later than 5 days after they are originally sent (if they are sent to more than one manufacturer, distributor, dealer, or purchaser/owner).

You are required to provide an estimated date including month, day, and year, when you will send notifications to owners, dealers, and distributors as soon as it becomes available. Please be reminded that it is required that owners be notified of a safety defect in their vehicles within 60 days of a manufacturer's notification to NHTSA of a safety defect in those vehicles.

Please be reminded that under 49 U.S.C. § 30112(a)(3), it is illegal for a manufacturer, to sell, offer for sale, import, or introduce or deliver into interstate commerce, a motor vehicle or item of motor vehicle equipment that contains a safety defect once the manufacturer has notified NHTSA about that safety defect. This prohibition does not apply once the motor vehicle or motor vehicle equipment has been remedied according to the manufacturer's instructions.

As required in Part 573.6(c)(6), in the case of a defect, please provide a chronology of all principal events that were the basis for the determination that the defect related to motor vehicle safety, including a summary of all warranty claims, field or service reports, and other information, with their dates of receipt. Please provide this information as soon as possible.

As stated in Part 573.7, submission of the first of six consecutive quarterly status reports is required within one month after the close of the calendar quarter in which notification to purchasers occurs. Therefore, the first quarterly report will be due on, or before, 30 days after the close of the calendar quarter.

Your contact for this recall will be Kelly Schuler who may be reached by phone at (202) 366-5227, or by email at kelly.schuler@dot.gov or through the office email at rmd.odi@dot.gov. We look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,



Jennifer Timian
Chief, Recall Management Division
Office of Defects Investigations
Enforcement