U.S. Department of Transportation

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

Part 573 Safety Recall Report 26V405

Manufacturer Name: Harbinger Motors Inc.
Submission Date: Sep 17, 2026
NHTSA Recall No.: 26V405
Manufacturer Recall No.: REC-04-00003

Manufacturer Information

Manufacturer Name: Harbinger Motors Inc.
Address: 12821 Knott St
Garden Grove CA, 92841

Population

Total number of potentially involved: 293
Estimated percentage with defect: 2%

Vehicle Information

Vehicle 1: 2026-2026 HARBINGER STEP VAN
Product Category: Buses, Medium & Heavy Vehicles
Product Type:
Fuel / Propulsion: Electric Battery Power
Production Dates: Jan 01, 2026 - Nov 15, 2026
Number of potentially involved: 34
Descriptive Information:
Harbinger elected out of an abundance of caution to expand the population of potentially affected vehicles and to revise the remedy.

Vehicle 2: 2025-2025 Harbinger Motors Stripped Chassis
Product Category: Buses, Medium & Heavy Vehicles
Product Type: Other
Fuel / Propulsion: Electric Battery Power
Production Dates: Dec 11, 2024 - Sep 23, 2025
Number of potentially involved: 259
Descriptive Information:
The population of 129 vehicles are those for which vehicle rework records were not logged in accordance with Harbinger's written procedure.

Defect / Noncompliance Description

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Description of the defect or noncompliance:

Chemical threadlocker on the four fasteners attaching the steering gearbox to the chassis crossmember, which can loosen and result in loss of steering authority.

FMVSS1:

FMVSS2:

Description of the safety risk, including crash, fire, death, injury:

If as many as three (3) of the four (4) steering gear mounting bolts were to completely dislodge or break, then the vehicle would experience a loss of steering authority. If all four (4) bolts were to completely dislodge or break, it is possible the vehicle would have little to no steering authority. Broken or loose steering gear bolts can cause a loss of steering control, increasing the risk of a crash.

Description of the cause:

The documentation required to confirm application of the chemical threadlocker was insufficient for the affected vehicles, leaving its application unconfirmable.

Identification of any warning that can occur:

If the steering gear box becomes loose enough to shift in position due to loosened bolts, the driver would feel play and hear noise from the steering mechanism.

Component Manufacturer

Tier of Supplier:

Supplier Type:

Name:

Address:

Country:

Involved Components

Component Name 1: BOLT, M18-2.50 x 80, PC 10.9, FLANGED HHCS, THREAD

Component Description: Steering gear mounting bolt

Component Part Number: H-00072572

Chronology

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- 9/16/2025: Steering gear mounting bolts found loose on two (2) vehicles during initial vehicle validation testing; one (1) reported with loose steering feel and one (1) reported with poor alignment.
- 9/22/2025: To address the above issue, PRW-8649 (factory product rework) was issued to apply threadlocker to all vehicles already produced.
- 9/24/2025: A clean point was established as of VIN 7ZN5S25A4SG000357 for the production line on 9/24/2025 (the “Clean Point”).
- 5/4/2026: A customer vehicle experienced steering looseness, and initial investigation found the cause to be the steering gear box fasteners had become loose.
- 5/5-6/2026: An internal investigation was initiated, establishing that the threadlocker had not been applied despite documentation to the contrary in the PRW record, and the picture requirement in the PRW work instruction was modified for clarity.
- 6/4/2026: Further investigation found that the PRW instructions called for photographic evidence of the threadlocker and that the documentation for the customer truck at issue was not consistent with the instructions and the record was inconclusive. Further study of the PRW records showed that the majority of the VINs listed in the PRW had either no picture or a picture inconsistent with the instructions and were therefore inconclusive.
- 6/17/2026: Harbinger’s Vehicle Safety Committee met on 6/17/26 and determined this condition could pose an unreasonable risk to public safety in violation of the Safety Act and that a Part 573 recall should commence to appropriately address the condition.
- Subsequent to the original Part 573 submission, three (3) vehicles outside the initially identified population presented related conditions. Although none of these vehicles had received the initial recall remedy, Harbinger elected out of an abundance of caution to expand the population of potentially affected vehicles and to revise the remedy.
- 7/28/2026: Customer 1 brought a truck to the dealer for an unrelated repair; during inspection the dealer found a missing ERCB bolt. The truck was repaired.
- 7/30/2026: Customer 2 complained of steering play, and dealer inspection of the vehicle found 3 missing ERCB bolts. The truck was repaired.
- 8/24/2026: Customer 3 complained of alignment issues, and dealer inspection found 2 missing ERCB bolts. The truck was repaired.
- 7/28/2026 - 9/10/2026: Harbinger Engineering evaluated whether the cause of the missing ERCB bolts was the same underlying condition as seen in the initial recalled vehicles, and determined that it was likely the result of the same condition. To better repair the condition, Harbinger developed and validated a new remedy that increases the friction between the ERCB and the mounting member and changes the torque procedure to torque to angle for higher accuracy.
- 9/10/2026: Harbinger’s Technical Review Committee met on September 10, 2026 and determined that it would proceed with an amendment to the current Part 573 recall to better address the condition.

Harbinger is not aware of any reports of accident or injury related to this condition.

Related NHTSA Recall Number: 26V405

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Description of Remedy

Remedy Type: Repair

Consumer Advisories: ☐ Do Not Drive ☐ Park Outside

Description of remedy program:

Harbinger or dealership service technicians will inspect the steering gear assembly completely free of charge. Technicians will (i) remove the old fasteners, (ii) replace them with new Harbinger-provided fasteners with preinstalled chemical threadlock patches, (iii) retorque the fasteners, and (iv) document the service work with photographic evidence.

How remedy component differs from recalled component:

The revised remedy adds friction discs between the steering gear and the mounting member, which increases joint friction and improves retention beyond what the fastener alone provides. It also replaces the previous torque specification with a torque to angle procedure for improved torque accuracy, and adds jam nuts. The original remedy relied on a fastener with pre-applied chemical threadlocker without these additional measures.

Identify how/when recall condition was corrected in production:

A clean point was established as of 9/8/2026. All the vehicles that were shipped prior shall be covered by this amendment.

Reimbursement Plan

Recall Schedule

Description of recall schedule:

Estimated Dealer Notification Date: October 23, 2026

Estimated Owner Notification Date: November 13, 2026

Planned Dealer Notification Date: Sep 21, 2026 - Oct 23, 2026 ☐ No Dealers

Planned Interim Owner Notification Date: ☐ No Owners

Planned Remedy Owner Notification Date: Aug 10, 2026 - Nov 12, 2026 ☐ Phased Recall

Date when VIN will be searchable: