

**INITIAL ACKNOWLEDGMENT FAX SHEET OF RECEIPT OF NONCOMPLIANCE  
INFORMATION REPORT SUBMITTED UNDER 49 CFR PART 573**

Assigned Recall No. 99V-118 by the  
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

MAY 13 1999

Part 573 Report Date: April 28, 1999

MANUFACTURER: Spartan Motors, Inc.

MANUFACTURER CONTACT: Wayne Ridge, Product Improvement Administrator  
Barry Killick, Compliance Manager, Product Compliance Group

FAX: (517) 543-7764/(517) 543-7729

SUBJECT: 1,753 Spartan fire trucks: 1989-1998 Baron manufactured from March 8, 1990 through February 25, 1998; 1991-1997 Charger manufactured December 10, 1996 through September 30, 1998; 1990-1998 Diamond manufactured from January 31, 1991 through October 17, 1996; 1987-1999 Gladiator manufactured from October 14, 1986 through October 9, 1998; 1991-1999 Metrostar manufactured from March 26, 1992 through October 8, 1998; 1993-1997 Galaxy New Generation manufactured from October 21, 1993 through April 15, 1997; 1991-1997 Silent Knight manufactured from February 25, 1991 through June 16, 1995; and 1989-1998 Advantage manufactured from January 5, 1996 through January 4, 1998. These fire trucks are all 4-door models which contain dual, forward facing passenger seats. The hardware utilized to mount the seat box to the cab floor and to the backwall structure, and also to mount the Type 1 seat belt systems, was inadequate to meet the requirements of FMVSS Nos. 207/210, "Seating Systems" and "Seat Belt Assembly Anchorages." Spartan Recall No. SPEC 98049.

This is an initial acknowledgment for this recall. A formal acknowledgment letter will be forthcoming shortly. After our review of your report and associated documents, we may have additional comments or concerns.

Under 49 U.S.C. § 30112(a), it is illegal for anyone, including a manufacturer, distributor, dealer, or retailer to sell an item of equipment or vehicle which fails to comply with all applicable Federal motor vehicle safety standards.

A draft copy of the notification documents must be submitted to this office by facsimile (202-366-7882) for review prior to mailing to owners as well as an estimated owner notification date.

As stated in Part 573.6, 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. The current quarter began April 1, and ends on June 30, 1999. If owner notification occurs during this time period, the first quarterly report will be due by July 30, 1999.

If you have any questions, please call:

Patricia Wallace, Recall Analyst or Jonathan White, Chief  
on (202) 366-5227 or by FAX (202) 366-7882  
Recall Analysis Division



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

DRAFT

400 Seventh St., S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20590

**CERTIFIED MAIL**  
**RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED**

Mr. Wayne Ridge  
Product Improvement Administrator  
Customer Service Operations  
Spartan Motors, Inc.  
1000 Reynolds Rd.  
Charlotte, MI 48813

MAR 20 1999

NSA-11amc  
99V-118

Dear Mr. Ridge:

We have reviewed Spartan Motors, Inc.'s (Spartan) Noncompliance Information Report dated April 28, 1999, submitted in accordance with 49 CFR Part 573, "Defect and Noncompliance Reports." This recall involves 1,753 Spartan fire trucks: 1989-1998 Baron manufactured from March 8, 1990 through February 25, 1998; 1991-1997 Charger manufactured December 10, 1996 through September 30, 1998; 1990-1998 Diamond manufactured from January 31, 1991 through October 17, 1996; 1987-1999 Gladiator manufactured from October 14, 1986 through October 9, 1998; 1991-1999 Metrostar manufactured from March 26, 1992 through October 8, 1998; 1993-1997 Galaxy New Generation manufactured from October 21, 1993 through April 15, 1997; 1991-1997 Silent Knight manufactured from February 25, 1991 through June 16, 1995; and 1989-1998 Advantage manufactured from January 5, 1996 through January 4, 1998. These fire trucks are all 4-door models which contain dual, forward facing passenger seats. The hardware utilized to mount the seat box to the cab floor and to the backwall structure, and also to mount the Type 1 seat belt systems, was inadequate to meet the requirements of Federal Motor Vehicle Systems Standards (FMVSS) Nos. 207/210, "Seating Systems" and "Seat Belt Assembly Anchorages." The assigned identification number for this recall is 99V-118, Spartan Recall No. SPEC 98049.

Spartan is responsible for the remedy of these motorcycles from this date forward, regardless of vehicle age, mileage, or ownership. You should know that the agency provides a listing of safety recalls to the media at the end of each month. This recall may be a part of that listing.

**Additional Information Required**

In accordance with Part 577, amended July 7, 1995, a draft owner notification letter must be submitted for review prior to mailing.

Please provide the beginning and ending manufacturing dates for these motorcycles.

Please provide this information, referencing the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's identification codes on this letter, to this office by July 13, 1999.



### Quarterly Status Reports

As stated in Part 573.6, 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. As stated in your report, owner notification should begin during July 1999. Therefore, the first quarterly report will be due in this office by October 30, 1999.

### Recall Communications

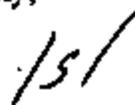
Communications pertaining to safety recalls and issued by Spartan to more than one distributor, dealer, purchaser, or owner are to be submitted to this office within 5 days of issuance as described under 49 CFR Part 573.5(c)(9). Where this information is sent over a period time, the communications are to be submitted within 5 days from the date the communications were first sent, and furnish the date, or range of dates, each communication was issued. This includes information transmitted by computer, telefax, or other electronic means; and initial or interim communications. All copies are to be in readable form and a written transcript should be provided for each non-written communication. Also, if the communication was not nationally and uniformly distributed, then identify the criteria used for the distribution.

### Manufacturer Communications

Part 573.8, "Notices, Bulletins and Other Communications," requires that every motor vehicle or motor vehicle equipment manufacturer shall furnish a copy of all notices, bulletins, and other communications (including warranty and policy extension communiques and product improvement bulletins) to manufacturers, distributors, dealers, or purchasers, regarding any defect in its vehicle or items of equipment (including any failure or malfunction beyond normal deterioration in use, any failure of performance, or any flaw or unintended deviation from design specifications), whether or not such defect is safety related. These notices or communications are to be submitted, regardless of the media used to transmit the information. Where communications are made orally or electronically, provide a transcript. In all other cases, provide the information in the media form used to transmit the information. On a case by case basis, we may require written transcripts of this material as well. Copies are to be submitted monthly, not more than 5 working days after the end of each month.

If you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Pat Wallace at (202) 366-5232 or fax at (202) 366-7882.

Sincerely,



Jonathan D. White, Chief  
Recall Analysis Division  
Office of Defects Investigation  
Safety Assurance