

00V-356.003

October 26, 2000

Mr. Kenneth N. Weinstein  
Associate Administrator for Safety Assurance  
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration  
400 Seventh Street, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20590

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OFFICE  
DEFECTS INVESTIGATION

Dear Mr. Weinstein:

Pursuant to Part 573 of Title 49 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Defect and Noncompliance Reports, DaVinci Coachworks Inc. submits the following information concerning a safety-compliance recall action that it has initiated.

573.5 (c) (2)

Certain 1998 and up model year Lincoln 418 package Town Cars altered by DaVinci Coachworks Inc. in Mahwah NJ from April 1998 through present are affected.

Because the vehicles are produced in production number order, information as to the applicability of this action to specific vehicles can be obtained. Approximately 180 vehicles may be affected.

573.5 (c) (3)

Approximately 180 vehicles may be involved in this recall action.

573.5 (c) (4)

All of these vehicles may be affected.

573.5 (c) (5)

These vehicles are altered to limousine configuration with 1-2 occupants in the front and 3-6 occupants in the rear. It has been determined by Ford that there is a potential for uneven weight distribution on the individual tires. This condition was discovered by Ford Motor Company on a vehicle at another limousine manufacturer's plant. We will be

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weighing exemplar vehicles to determine the extent of the loading as compared to the rating on current tires. Any vehicles not satisfying the requirements of FMVSS 110 will be recalled.

573.5 (c) (6)

This condition was discovered by Ford Motor Company on a vehicle at another limousine manufacturer's plant. DaVinci Coachworks is in the process of determining if this condition exists on our vehicles.

573.5 (c) (7)

Production numbers of the affected vehicles have been identified. Ford Motor Company is delivering new tires for all vehicles affected. If we determine the overload condition exists on our alterations the affected vehicles will be recalled for new tires.

573.5 (c) (8)

DaVinci Coachworks Inc. does not at this time plan to make a statement available to the media concerning the subject matter of this recall. All units in production will have tires changed before they are sold.

573.5 (c) (9)

DaVinci Coachworks Inc. has assigned recall number RC001 to this action.

Sincerely,

  
Tamar A. Durani  
Quality Manager