

Springfield Coach Builders, Inc.

1903 N. Barnes • Springfield, MO 65803 • (417) 866-6363 • FAX (417) 866-6142

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

000-356-010

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Dear Mr. Weinstein:

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

573.5 (c) (2)

Certain 2000 through 2001 model year Springfield Coach Builders, Inc. limousines produced using Lincoln Town Cars equipped with the 418 limousine conversion package built by SCB in Springfield, Missouri from August 17, 1999 through October 26, 2000 are affected by this recall.

573.5 (c)

A total of 172 Springfield Coach Builders, Inc. Lincoln Town Car limousines are involved in this recall action.

573.5 (c) (4)

All of these vehicles converted with a wheelbase extension of 60" or more are affected. These vehicles are designed special purpose vehicles that are designed and built for up to 9 passengers. They were converted to limousines using the Lincoln Town Car chassis equipped with the 418 limousine conversion package. The tires provided with the 418 limousine conversion package are Michelin P225/70R16 which has a maximum load rating of 1819 lbs. The converted limousines do not conform to FMVSS110-Tire Selection and Rims, when equipped with the tires referenced above. Test results show that vehicles extended 60" or more equipped with this tire exceed the maximum weight capacity of individual tires when subjected to the "normal load condition" as specified in FMVSS 110, S4.2.1 and FMVSS110, S4.2.2, which requires that weight does not exceed 88% of maximum load capacity of the tire.

CUSTOM BUILT LIMOUSINES
USED LIMOUSINES

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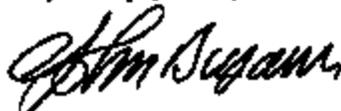
Section 573.5(c) (7)

This condition was discovered when Ford Motor Company alerted Springfield Coach Builders, Inc. of potential noncompliance. Subsequent testing performed by Springfield Coach Builders, Inc. confirmed the noncompliance and affected 133 vehicles shipped to customers and 39 vehicles remaining in Springfield Coach Builders' inventory.

Section 573.5 (c) (8) (9) (11)

Ford Motor Company is implementing a recall to include all Springfield Coach Builders limousines that fall into the non-compliance category. Springfield Coach Builders, has stopped shipment on non-compliant vehicles and will resume shipments after the vehicles are equipped with tires that comply with the requirements of FMVSS 110. Ford Motor Company will assign a campaign number to this action.

Very truly yours,



John Bumgarner, President
Springfield Coach Builders, Inc.

JB/rkh