

Salnta-Claire, November 30, 2000

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

RECEIVED

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OFFICE
DEFECTS INVESTIGATION

SUBJECT: SAFETY RECALL NOTIFICATION

00V-389(0)

Dear Mr. Weinstein,

As a coach manufacturer, Prévost Car Inc. advises you in accordance with your safety law, Part 573 (Docket No. 89-31; Notice No. 2) paragraph 573.4, that we have found a defect on some of our vehicles that does not meet the US Federal Motor Vehicle Standards and Regulations part 565.

The vehicles potentially affected by the defect are as follows:

MAKE: PRÉVOST

H3-40, H3-41 and H3-45 coaches MODEL YEAR: 1990-2001	From 2P9H334081001031	To 2PCH3349711014181	Between June 1990 and December 2000
XL-40 and XL-45 coaches And MSE Model year: 1994 - 1995	From 2P9L334081001775	To 2P9L3340251001847	Between August 1993 and June 1995

The total number of vehicles potentially affected by the defect is estimated to be 1990 in the U.S. and 1093 in Canada, and the total number of the potentially affected vehicles in North America manufactured between 1990 and December 2000 is 3083.

The estimated percentage of the potentially affected vehicles that contain the defect is 100 % of the total manufactured quantity.

THE DEFECT MAY BE DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS:

It has come to the attention of Prévost Car Inc. that on the above-mentioned vehicles having a high mileage or submitted to severe working conditions, the tag axle may develop fatigue cracks and eventually a tag axle failure. This could have adverse effects on the handling of the vehicle. If you are the owner or operator of such vehicle, it is of the utmost importance to have the tag axle inspected right away. Reinforcement parts must be installed and cracks repaired if necessary in order to strengthen the tag axle. For more information or help on how to perform this safety recall, contact your service manager or the nearest service center.

THE EVENTS THAT WERE THE BASIS FOR THE DETERMINATION OF THE EXISTENCE OF A SAFETY DEFECT ARE:

After discovering two tag axle failures on vehicles in operation (Harran Coachways (P-382) and Academy (V-1743)), Prévost Car has decided to launch a safety recall campaign.

MEASURES TO BE TAKEN TO REPAIR THE DEFECT:

Safety recall no. 00-37 will explain the complete procedure required.

As requested in paragraph 573.2 (8), three (3) copies of the letter that our customers (Defect Notification) will receive on that matter, and three (3) copies of Safety recall no. 00-37 are enclosed for your perusal.

If you require any information on that campaign, do not hesitate to contact us.

Truly yours,

Jocelyne Côté, E.I.T.
Technical Publications Manager



001-389 (a2)
PREVOST

SAFETY RECALL

Sr00-37

REGISTERED-EMPLOYERS
ISO 9001 & ISO 14001



DATE : November 2000	SECTION : 11
SUBJECT : TAG AXLE INSPECTION AND INSTALLATION OF REINFORCEMENT PARTS	

APPLICATION

		
H3-40, H3-41 & H3-45 Coaches Model Year: 1990 - 1996	From 2P9H33408L1001031 up to 2PCH33417I101135Z incl.	
H3-41 & H3-45 Coaches Model Year: 1994 - 2001	From 2P9H33495B1001012 up to 2PCH33497I1014181 incl.	
XL-40 and XL-45 Coaches Model Year: 1994 - 1995	From 2P9L33408B1001775 up to 2P9L33402S100164Z incl.	
MTH-45E Model Year: 1994 - 1995	From 2P9E33492B100177Z up to 2P9E33492S1001638 incl.	

DESCRIPTION

It has come to the attention of PrevoSt Car Inc. that on the above-mentioned vehicles having a high mileage or submitted to severe working conditions, the tag axle may develop fatigue cracks and eventually a tag axle failure. This could have adverse effects on the handling of the vehicle. If you are the owner or operator of such vehicle, it is of the utmost importance to have the tag axle inspected right away. Reinforcement parts must be installed and cracks repaired if necessary in order to strengthen the tag axle. For more information or help on how to perform this safety recall, contact your service manager or the nearest service center.

1st PART

		
H3 Series Coaches Model Year: 1990 - 1996	From 2P9H33408L1001031 up to 2PCH33417I101135Z incl.	
XL-40 and XL-45 Coaches Model Year: 1994 - 1995	From 2P9L33408B1001775 up to 2P9L33402S100164Z incl.	
MTH-45E Model Year: 1994 - 1995	From 2P9E33492B100177Z up to 2P9E33492S1001638 incl.	

MATERIAL

Part Number	Description	Quantity
121503	Reinforcement part	4

Note: Material can be obtained through regular channels.

PROCEDURE

INSPECTION

1. Raise tag axle then remove the wheels or empty air springs then raise tag axle using a jack and remove the wheels.

2. Remove asphalt base undercoating (Gravel Guard 3M) and any rust present near the risk or affected area, the risk areas are the joints between axle arch and sub-assemblies (refer to figure 1).
3. Check if tag axle is cracked, check if cracks are superficial by grinding the affected area to make the cracks disappear. If cracks are only superficial, chip off or grind to bare metal then reweld crack referring to paragraph: Steel - Steel Welding. Weld reinforcement parts referring to figure 1 welding specifications

4. If no cracks are present on tag axle, weld reinforcement parts referring to figure 1 welding specifications.

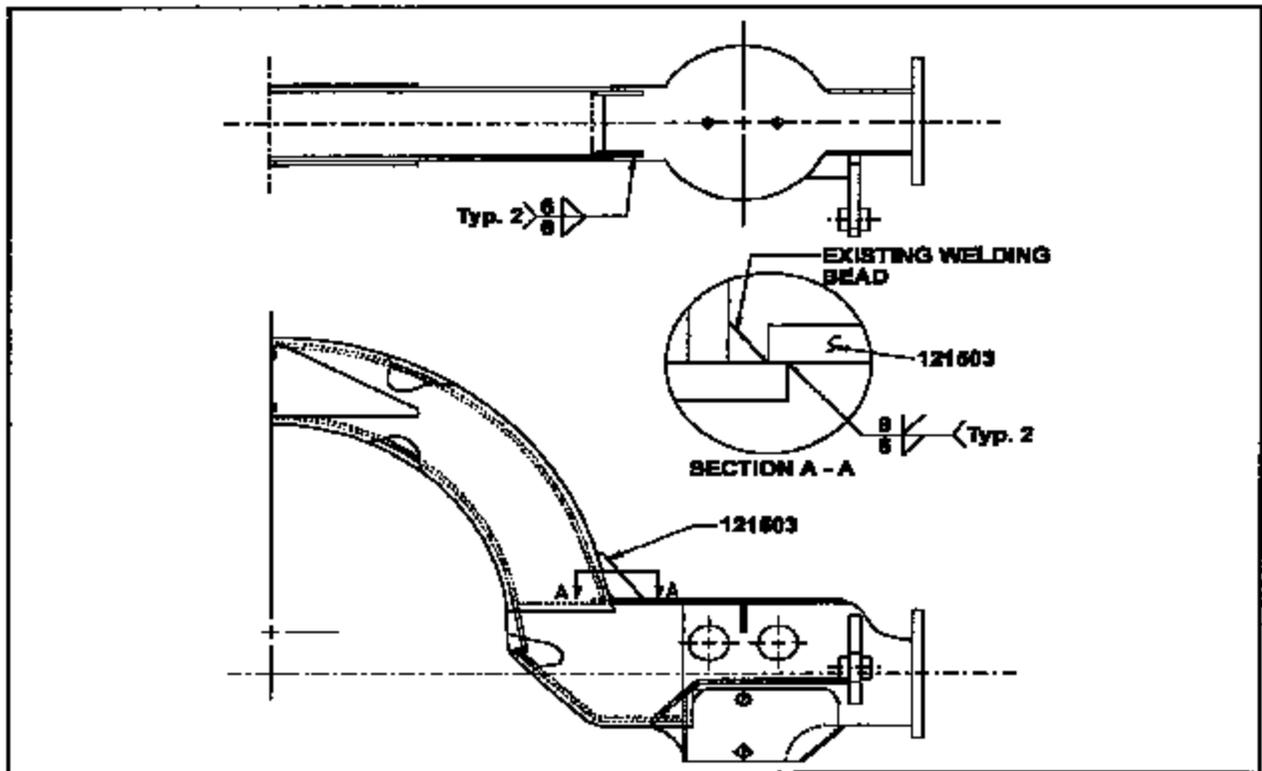


FIGURE 1

5. When base metal temperature is below 32 °F (0 °C), base metal must be preheated to at least 50 °F (10 °C) and this temperature must be maintained for the whole welding process. It is therefore preferable to leave the vehicle to repair in a heated area for about half a day or heat tag axle until it reaches 50 °F (10 °C) minimum. You can also circulate warm air around tag axle using a fan.

REINFORCEMENT PARTS INSTALLATION

Note : *Welding must be done only by a qualified and experienced person.*

1. Protective shields must be placed in order to protect components against heat, welding flash, welding arc and other elements associated with welding.
2. Always wear the appropriate safety equipment.
3. Weld in clean and well-ventilated area, and always have an appropriate fire extinguisher within your reach.
4. The following precautions are to be taken to protect the electronic control components :
 - Cut off battery power (battery master switch) from battery compartment.
 - Disconnect wiring harness connectors from ECM (Electronic Control Module). The ECM is mounted on the starter side of the engine.
 - For vehicles equipped with an automatic transmission, disconnect wiring harness connectors from ECU (Electronic Control Unit). The ECU is located in rear electrical compartment.
 - For vehicles equipped with ABS (Anti-Lock Brake System), disconnect wiring harness connectors from ABS Electronic Control Unit. The ABS Electronic Control Unit is located in the front service compartment.
 - Do not connect welding cables to electronic control components.
5. Weld reinforcement parts as per figure 1 and refer to welding specifications indicated in paragraph: **Steel – Steel Welding:**

2nd PART

	
H3-41 & H3-45 Coaches Model Year: 1996 - 2001	From 2PCH3349111011358 up to 2PCH3349711014181 incl.

MATERIAL

121586	Reinforcement part	2
121587	Reinforcement part	2
121588	Reinforcement part	2

Note: *Material can be obtained through regular channels.*

PROCEDURE

INSPECTION

1. Raise tag axle then remove the wheels or empty air springs then raise tag axle using a jack and remove the wheels.

2. Remove asphalt base undercoating (Gravel Guard 3M) and any rust present near the risk or affected area, the risk areas are located on sub-assemblies and indicated in figure 2.

3. Check if tag axle is cracked, check if cracks are superficial by grinding the affected area to make the cracks disappear. If cracks are only superficial, chip off or grind to bare metal then reweld crack referring to paragraph: Steel – Steel Welding. Weld reinforcement parts referring to figure 3 welding specifications

4. If no cracks are present on tag axle, weld reinforcement parts referring to figure 3 welding specifications.

5. When base metal temperature is below 32 °F (0 °C), base metal must be preheated to at least 50 °F (10 °C) and this temperature must be maintained for the whole welding process. It is therefore preferable to leave the vehicle to repair in a heated area for about half a day or heat tag axle until it reaches 50 °F (10 °C) minimum. You can also circulate warm air around tag axle using a fan.

REINFORCEMENT PARTS INSTALLATION

Note : *Welding must be done only by a qualified and experienced person.*

1. Protective shields must be placed in order to protect components against heat, welding flash, welding arc and other elements associated with welding.
2. Always wear the appropriate safety equipment.
3. Weld in clean and well-ventilated area, and always have an appropriate fire extinguisher within your reach.
4. The following precautions are to be taken to protect the electronic control components :
 - Cut off battery power (battery master switch) from battery compartment.
 - Disconnect wiring harness connectors from ECM (Electronic Control Module). The ECM is mounted on the starter side of the engine.
 - For vehicles equipped with an automatic transmission, disconnect wiring harness connectors from ECU (Electronic Control Unit). The ECU is located in rear electrical compartment.
 - For vehicles equipped with ABS (Anti-Lock Brake System), disconnect wiring harness connectors from ABS Electronic Control Unit. The ABS Electronic Control Unit is located in the front service compartment.
 - Do not connect welding cables to electronic control components.
5. Weld reinforcement parts as per figure 3 and refer to following welding specifications:

WELDING SEQUENCE

In order to allow better heat dispersion and to control deformation du to welding, it is important to follow the following steps :

- Install and spot weld reinforcement parts # 121586, 121587 and 121588 as per figure 3;
- (1) Weld top of reinforcement part #121588 (horizontal);
- (2) Weld under reinforcement parts # 121586 and 121587 (overhead);
- (3) Weld under reinforcement part #121588 (overhead);
- (4) Weld top of reinforcement parts #121586 and 121587 (horizontal);
- Allow welding to cool, then remove slag and grind arc spots. Check quality of welding. Repaint reinforcement parts and axle. Apply asphalt base undercoating (Gravel Guard 3M).

STEEL – STEEL WELDING

Caution: Before welding, all electrical connections must be disconnected and the battery disconnected. The welding process must be performed in a well-ventilated area. The welder must wear appropriate protective clothing and equipment. The welding process must be performed in a well-ventilated area. The welder must wear appropriate protective clothing and equipment.

- FCAW (Flux Core Arc Welding) process ;
- Electrode wire conforms to A5.20 AWS (American Welding Standards) specifications ;
- E4801T-9-CH, E71T-1 or E71T-9 type electrode wire with 0,045" diameter (1,14 mm) ;
- Current : 260 amperes ;
- Voltage : 28 ± 1 volts ;
- Wire feed rate : 430 ipm. (approximately) ;
- Feed speed : 12 ipm ;
- Shielding gas : 75% argon - 25% CO₂ or 100% CO₂.

If necessary and with great care to prevent perforating the material, it is possible to use a conventional electric arc welding machine according to the following specifications:

- SMAW (Shield Metal-Arc Welding) process ;
- Welding rod conforms to A5.1 of AWS (American Welding Standards) specifications ;
- E 7018 type welding rod with 3/32" diameter (2,4 mm) ;
- Current: horizontal - 50 amperes to 100 amperes (optimized at 85 amperes).
 up - 50 amperes to 100 amperes (optimized at 85 amperes).
 overhead - 50 amperes to 100 amperes (optimized at 85 amperes).

6. Reconnect components mentioned at step 4.
7. Install wheels and lower tag axle.

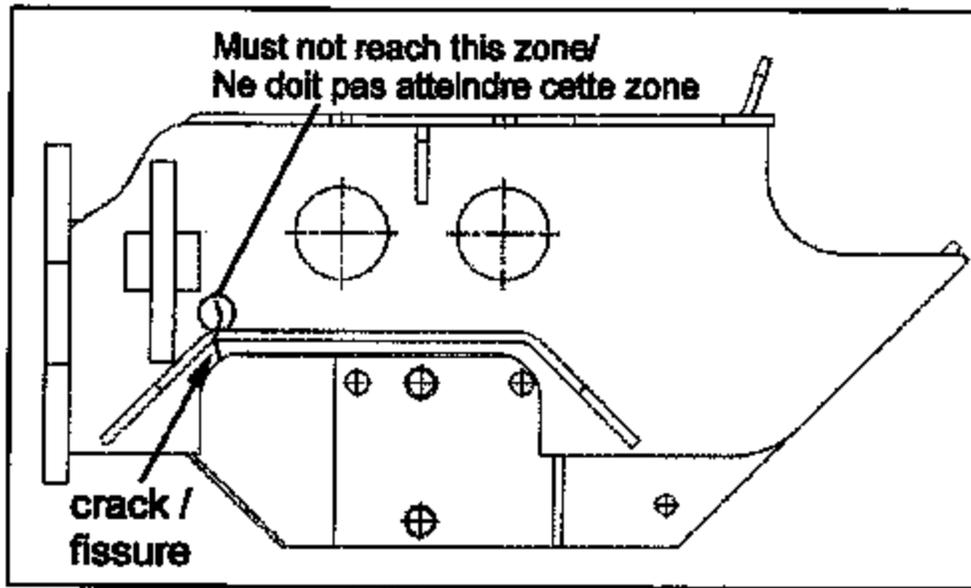


FIGURE 2

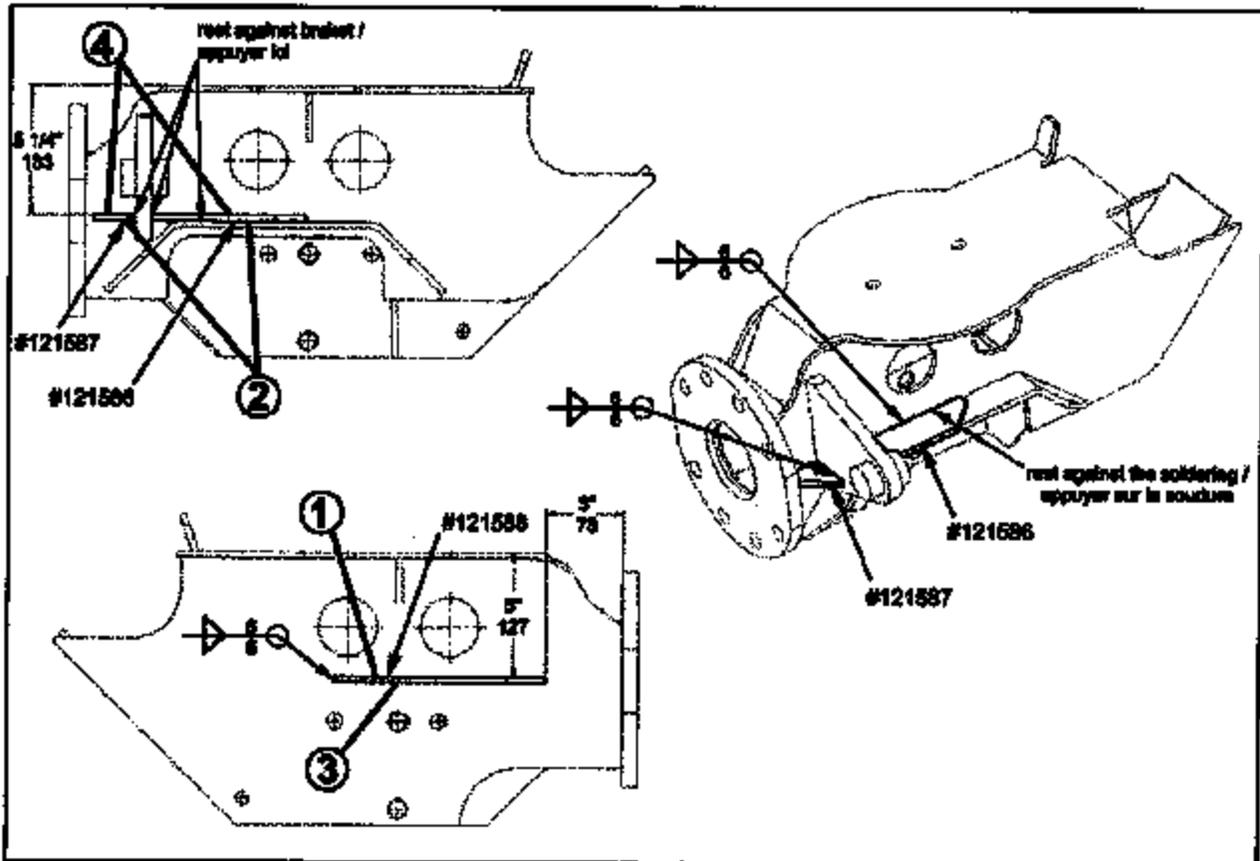


FIGURE 3

WARRANTY

This modification is covered by Prévost Car's normal warranty. We will reimburse you the parts and two and one half hours (2.5) of labour upon receipt of a completed A.F.A. form on which you must specify as per "Safety Recall 00-37".

November 30, 2000

DEFECT NOTIFICATION

00V-389 (28)

Dear Customer:

This notice is sent to you in accordance with the requirements of the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act of U.S.A.

Prévost Car Inc. has determined that a defect which relates to motor vehicle safety exists in certain 1990-2001 XL-40 and XL-45 coaches, MTH-45E, H3-40, H3-41 and H3-45 coaches. Prévost Car Inc., as coach manufacturer, has recently noticed that:

On the above-mentioned vehicles having a high mileage or submitted to severe working conditions, the tag axle may develop fatigue cracks and eventually a tag axle failure. This could have adverse effects on the handling of the vehicle. If you are the owner or operator of such vehicle, it is of the utmost importance to have the tag axle inspected right away. Reinforcement parts must be installed and cracks repaired if necessary in order to strengthen the tag axle. For more information or help on how to perform this safety recall, contact your service manager or the nearest service center.

H3-40, H3-41 & H3-45 Coaches Model Year: 1990 - 2001	From 2P9H33408L1001031 up to 2PCH3348711014181 incl.
XL-40 and XL-45 Coaches Model Year: 1994 - 1995	From 2P9L33408R1001775 up to 2P9L33402S1001647 incl.
MTH-45E Model Year: 1994 - 1995	From 2P9E33482R1001777 up to 2P9E33492S1001638 incl.

CORRECTIVE ACTIONS:

You must refer to the enclosed Safety Recall no. 00-37 and perform the stated procedure.

REPORTING REQUIREMENT:

In order to verify and document the corrective action taken on your vehicle(s) pursuant to the requirements of the Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Regulations, we are enclosing a "SAFETY RECALL CERTIFICATION" sheet. When the vehicle(s) is (are) repaired, this (these) sheet(s) must be completed and returned to PRÉVOST CAR INC. head office.

LABOR & PARTS REIMBURSEMENT:

Prévost Car Inc. will reimburse you parts and labor incurred.

Federal laws require that you be informed of your right to notify the Department of Transportation if you are unable to have the defect remedied without charge. The address for this purpose is:

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
Washington, DC 20590
USA

Auto Safety Hotline: 1-800-424-9393 nationally and, 202-368-0123 for Washington DC area residents.

If any assistance is required, please contact your local distributor or the PRÉVOST CAR INC. after sales service department.

We regret any inconvenience which this situation may cause you. However, we are concerned about your safety, rest assured that PRÉVOST CAR INC. is making all efforts to remedy the defect as quickly as possible in the interest of motor vehicle safety.

Truly yours,

Jocelyne Côté, E.L.T.
Technical Publications Manager.

00V-389 (09)



PREVOST

**Safety Recall
Certification Sheet
(Ref: Sr00-37)**

INTERNATIONAL CERTIFIED
ISO 9001 & ISO 14001



SERIAL NUMBER: _____

PERFORMED BY		OWNER/OPERATOR	
We hereby certify that Safety Recall Instructions with regards to Safety Recall #00-37 have been performed.			
Name: _____		Name: _____	
Addr: _____		Addr: _____	
Phone: _____		Phone: _____	
Fax: _____		Fax: _____	
Signature : _____	_____	Signature : _____	_____
Date: _____	_____	Date: _____	_____

If the information mentioned above is incorrect or you are not the owner of this vehicle anymore, please fill this section and return to sender.

NEW OWNER:

BUSINESS:

ADDRESS:

TELEPHONE: _____

FAX: _____

**Please return this completed document with your
A.F.A. form**