

26E-041  
(8995.)

Safety Defect and Noncompliance Report Guide for Equipment  
PART 573 Defect and Noncompliance Responsibility and Reports<sup>1</sup>

On May 12, 2006, R&B, Inc. decided that a defect which may relate to motor vehicle safety exists in items of motor vehicle equipment listed below, and is furnishing notification to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration in accordance with 49 CFR Part 573 Defect and Noncompliance Responsibility and Reports.

Date this report was prepared: May 17, 2006

Furnish the manufacturer's identification code for this recall (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

1. Identify the full corporate name of the fabricating manufacturer/brand name/trademark owner of the recalled item of equipment. If the recalled item of equipment is imported, provide the name and mailing address of the designated agent as prescribed by 49 U.S.C. §30164.

Dorman® / Help!® (registered trademarks of R&B, Inc.)  
R&B, Inc. 3400 East Walnut Street, Colmar, PA 18915

Identify the corporate official, by name and title, whom the agency should contact with respect to this recall.

Thomas J. Knoblauch, Vice President and General Counsel.

Telephone Number: (215) 712-5222 Fax No.: (215) 997-8577

Name and Title of Person who prepared this report.

Thomas J. Knoblauch, Vice President and General Counsel

Signed: 

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<sup>1</sup> Each manufacturer must furnish a report, to the Associate Administrator for Enforcement, for each defect or noncompliance condition which relates to motor vehicle safety.

This guide was developed from 49 CFR Part 573, "Defect and Noncompliance Responsibility and Reports" and also outlines information currently requested. Any questions, please consult the complete Part 573 or contact Mr. George Person at (202) 366-5210 or by FAX at (202) 366-7882.

**1. Identify the Recalled Items of Equipment**

**2. Identify the Items of Equipment Involved in this Recall, for each make and model or applicable item of equipment product line (provide illustrations or photographs as necessary to describe the item of equipment), provide:**

**Generic name of the item:** Fuel Line

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**Make:** HELP! (R&B brand) **Model:**

**Part Number:** 55163 **Size:**

**Function:** CMFI Fuel Return Line

**Other information which characterizes/distinguishes the items of equipment to be recalled:**

Fuel return line has mechanical bleed valve. Part fits select 1992 to 1995 with GM trucks 4.3 L (VIN W) engine - Astro, Safari, S-Series Pick-Up, Blazer, Jimmy, Sonoma, Typhoon, and Bravada.

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**Make:** NAPA Balkamp **Model:**

**Part Number:** 700-3270 **Size:**

**Function:**      CMFI Fuel Return Line

**Model Years Involved:**

**Other information which characterizes/distinguishes the items of equipment to be recalled:**

Fuel return line has mechanical bleed valve. Part fits select 1992 to 1995 with GM trucks 4.3 L (VIN W) engine - Astro, Safari, S-Series Pick-Up, Blazer, Jimmy, Sonoma, Typhoon, and Bravada.

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**Make:** The Connection (R&B subsidiary) **Model:**

**Part Number:** 2560001 **Size:**

**Function:**      CMFI Fuel Return Line

**Other information which characterizes/distinguishes the items of equipment to be recalled:**

Fuel return line has mechanical bleed valve. Part fits select 1992 to 1995 with GM trucks 4.3 L (VIN W) engine - Astro, Safari, S-Series Pick-Up, Blazer, Jimmy, Sonoma, Typhoon, and Bravada.

Identify the approximate percentage of the production of all the recalled models manufactured by your company between the inclusive dates of manufacture provided above, that the recalled model population represents. For example, if the recall involved Widgets equipped with certain items of equipment from January 1, 1996, through April 1, 1997, then what was the percentage of the recalled Widgets of all Widgets manufactured during that time period. Eighty Percent (80%)

## II. Identifying the Recall Population

3. Furnish the total number of items of equipment recalled potentially containing the defect or noncompliance.

<b>Items</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Number of</b>
<b>Model</b>		<b>Potentially</b>
<b><u>Involved</u></b>		
HELP! (R&B brand) 55163		TBD Units
NAPA Balkamp 700-3270		TBD Units
The Connection (R&B subsidiary) 2560001		TBD Units
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**Total Number Potentially Affected by the Recall:** 7800

4. Furnish the approximate percentage of the total number of items of equipment estimated to actually contain the defect or noncompliance: Eighty Percent (80%)

Identify and describe how the recall population was determined--in particular how the recalled models were selected and the basis for the beginning and final dates of manufacture of the recalled items of equipment:

Recall population was based on service call history and testing of a subset of suspect inventory. Units received in January of 2006 are the potentially defective population.

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### III. Describe the Defect or Noncompliance

**5. Describe the defect or noncompliance. The description should address the nature and physical location of the defect or noncompliance. Illustrations should be provided as appropriate.**

The mechanical bleed valve was not installed at the proper torque

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**Describe the cause(s) of the defect or noncompliance condition.**

Improper assembly at contract manufacturer/sub-supplier.

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**Describe the consequence(s) of the defect or noncompliance condition.**

Potential fuel leak at valve.

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**Identify any warning which can (a) precede or (b) occur.**

Fuel odor

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**If the defect or noncompliance is in a component or assembly purchased from a supplier, identify the supplier by corporate name and address.**

Chiaust Automotive Plastics Corp LTP

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Songlindian, Zhauzhan City

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Hebei Province, P.R. China PC 072761

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**Identify the name and title of the chief executive officer or knowledgeable representative of the supplier:**

Thomas J. Knoblauch – Vice President and General Counsel

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**IV. Provide the Chronology in Determining the Defect/Noncompliance**

*If the recall is for a defect, complete item 6, otherwise item 7.*

**6. With respect to a defect, furnish a chronological summary (including dates) of all the principle events that were the basis for the determination of the defect. The summary should include, but not be limited to, the number of reports, accidents, injuries, fatalities, and warranty claims.**

<b><u>DATE</u></b>	<b><u>DESCREPTION</u></b>
3/31/06	R&B receives first field complaint from customer. Asked to have samples returned for inspections
4/18/06	Samples arrive at R&B and are tested in house. Samples determined to be defective. All inventory placed on hold.
5/2/06	Outside laboratory determines 8 of 10 samples are defective. Vendor notified of the problem.
5/3/06	R&B receives initial Vendor response
5/4/06	R&B senior engineer review. R&B customers are alerted of potential defect.
5/9/06	Samples are sent to Vendor and rework procedure is developed.
5/12/06	R&B determines that defect exists.

**7. With respect to a noncompliance, identify and provide the test results or other data (in chronological order and including dates) on which the noncompliance was determined.**

Testing was performed in-house on or about April 18, 2006 and by outside lab on or about May 2, 2006. As of the date of this report R&B has not confirmed whether Vendor performed its own in-house test.

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**V. Identify the Remedy**

**8. A description of the manufacturer's program for remedying the defect or noncompliance. This program shall include a plan for reimbursing an owner or purchaser who incurred costs to obtain a remedy for the problem addressed by the recall within a reasonable time in advance of the manufacturer's notification of owners, purchasers and dealers, in accordance with §573.13 of this part. A manufacturer's plan may incorporate by reference a general reimbursement plan it previously submitted to NHTSA, together with information specific to the individual recall. Information required by §573.13 that is not in a general reimbursement plan shall be submitted in the manufacturer's report to NHTSA under this section. If a manufacturer submits one or more general reimbursement plans, the manufacturer shall update each plan every two years, in accordance with §573.13. The manufacturer's remedy program and reimbursement plans will be available for inspection by the public at NHTSA headquarters.**

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R&B intends, at customer's option, to either replace the defective units with non-defective units at no charge or fully refund customer's money.

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**9. Furnish a description of the manufacturer's remedy for the defect or noncompliance. Clearly describe the differences between the recall condition and the remedy.**

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R&B will work with Vendor to ensure that bleed valves are properly tightened so that no fuel is emitted.

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**Clearly describe the distinguishing characteristics of the remedy component/assembly versus the recalled component/assembly.**

On the remedy component the bleed valve is properly tightened such that no fuel odor is emitted. Remedy assemblies will have the packaging marked with a unique identifier (green circular dot)

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**Identify and describe how and when the recall condition was corrected in production. If the production remedy was identical to the recall remedy in the field, so state. If the product was discontinued, so state.**

R&B is in the process of having the recall condition corrected in production and will not ship units until remedy has been implemented.

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**VI. Identify the Recall Schedule**

**10. Furnish a schedule or agenda (with specific dates) for notification to other manufacturers, dealers/retailers, and purchasers. Please, identify any foreseeable problems with implementing the recall.**

Product Alert Bulletin (dated May 3, 2006) distributed May 4, 2006. No problems with implementing the recall are anticipated.

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**VII. Furnish Recall Communications**

**11. Furnish a final copy of all notices, bulletins, and other communications that relate directly to the defect or noncompliance and which are sent to more than one manufacturer, distributor, or purchaser. This includes all communications (including both original and follow-up) concerning this recall from the time your company determines the defect or noncompliance condition on, not just the initial notification. *A DRAFT copy of the notification documents should be submitted to this office by Fax (202-366-7882) for review prior to mailing.***

**Note: These documents are to be submitted separately from those provided in accordance with Part 579.5 requirements.**