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SPARTAN MOTORS, INC.

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February 15, 2013

Ms. Nancy Lewis
Associate Administrator for Enforcement
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
Attention: Recall Management Division
1200 New Jersey Avenue S.E.
Washington, DC 20590

Subject: Spartan ERV - Defect Information Report

Dear Ms. Lewis:

On February 8, 2013, Spartan ERV issued a defect notice for aerial fire apparatus equipped with a single inclinometer for the aerial platform. Since then, the defect notice has been amended to include the chronology of events and an update in the language in section 573.6(c)(5) to better clarify the potential risks regarding safety.

Please contact me with any questions as it relates to this matter.

Best Regards,

Wesley D. Chestnut
Lead, Compliance



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**Defect Information Report - Amended
ERV13-002**

573.6(c)(1): Spartan ERV
64 Cocalico Creek
Ephrata, PA 17522

573.6(c)(2): Aerial fire apparatus affected by this recall are equipped with a single platform inclinometer. Other aerial fire apparatus are not equipped with such device.

Make	Spartan ERV
Models	MMP 100 and RMP 100
Model Years	2005 through 2011
Vehicle Type	Aerial Fire Apparatus
Weight Range (GVWR)	79500 lbs through 86000 lbs
VDM Range	3/6/2006 through 4/9/2011

Table 1

573.6(c)(3) The total number of vehicles potentially containing the defect is shown in Table 2.

Model	Model Year	Number Involved
RMP 100	2005	1
RMP 100	2006	4
RMP 100	2007	2
MMP 100	2008	5
RMP 100	2008	3
MMP 100	2009	5
RMP 100	2009	3
MMP 100	2010	1
RMP 100	2010	1
RMP 100	2011	1
Total		26

Table 2

573.6(c)(4) 100% of the vehicles produced between the dates of manufacturing shown in **Table 1** contain the defect.



- 573.6(c)(5)** The platform inclinometer may provide an intermittent signal that allows for the aerial platform to be tilted below the horizontal plane. This could occur without warning causing the aerial platform to impact equipment or persons in close proximity to the aerial platform. Additionally, if this occurs when occupants are in the aerial platform, they may become off balance. As a result in severe personal injury or significant property damage could occur.
- 573.6(c)(6)** **November 13, 2012** – Spartan ERV received complaint of an aerial platform inadvertently dropping beneath the horizontal plane resulting in damage to the cab of the aerial fire apparatus. Spartan ERV immediately began thorough review of warranty history regarding the installation of the single inclinometer commenced on this date.
- November 29, 2012** – The affected aerial fire apparatus was returned to Spartan ERV for evaluation and analysis.
- December 15, 2012** – Warranty review was completed and it was determined there were at least 2 instances of the platform dropping beneath the horizontal plane that did not result in equipment damage or personal injury.
- December 31, 2012** – Dual inclinometers, in an enclosure, were installed on the aerial fire apparatus for evaluation.
- January 11, 2013** – Evaluation of the aerial fire apparatus was completed. It was determined the dual inclinometers installed in an enclosure on the aerial device operated properly in all scenarios to which it was subjected.
- February 1, 2013** – Spartan ERV determines the issue with the aerial platform potentially dropping beneath the horizontal plane to be a defect relating to safety.
- February 8, 2013** – Spartan ERV submits a defect notice to the NHTSA.
- 573.6(c)(8)** For vehicles affected by this recall, the single inclinometer will be replaced with dual inclinometers installed in a sealed enclosure. However, parts are not expected to be available until March 2013. As a result, a two stage repair process is needed.



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As an interim repair dealers or service providers can disconnect the single inclinometer to eliminate the safety concern. With this interim repair, keeping the aerial platform level will need to be done utilizing only the hydraulic system when the aerial platform is in use. When parts become available, customers will be notified via mail to contact their dealer or service center to have the remedy applied free of charge.

Spartan ERV expects to begin customer notification in February 2013.