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13V-066
(5 pages)



SPARTAN MOTORS, INC.

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February 27, 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 Motors Chassis, Inc. - Defect Information Report

Dear Ms. Lewis:

Pursuant to Part 573 of Title 49 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Spartan Motors, Inc., on behalf of its subsidiary, Spartan Motors Chassis, Inc. ("Spartan Chassis"), hereby reports a defect involving motor vehicle safety. Spartan Chassis has determined a safety defect may exist in certain Metro Star and Gladiator emergency response chassis cabs equipped with a Spartan Advanced Protection System (APS) manufactured between March 29, 2012 and January 30, 2013.

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
13-004**

573.6(c)(1): Spartan Motors Chassis, Inc.
1541 Reynolds Road
Charlotte, MI 48813

573.6(c)(2): Chassis cabs affected by this recall are equipped with a Spartan APS supplied by Takata Protection Systems, Inc. Other emergency response chassis cabs are not equipped with this system and therefore not subject to this recall.

Make	Spartan Motors Chassis, Inc.
Models	Metro Star and Gladiator
Model Years	2012 and 2013
Vehicle Type	Emergency Response Chassis Cabs
Weight Range (GVWR)	42000 lbs through 87000 lbs
VDM Range	3/29/2012 through 1/30/2013

Table 1

Takata Protection Systems, Inc.
1371 SW 8TH Street, Suite #3
Pompano Beach, FL 33069
Phone: 954-784-3178

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

Model	Model Year	Number Involved
Gladiator	2012	1
Gladiator	2013	13
Metro Star	2013	13
Total		27

Table 2

573.6(c)(4) The percentage of vehicles shown in **Table 2** potentially containing the defect is unknown.



573.6(c)(5) The control module in the Spartan APS may be subject to transient electrical loads on the ground circuit. When a short to ground occurs on a device in the APS and a transient electrical load is present in the ground circuit, an inadvertent air bag deployment could occur without warning. This may result in personal injury or property damage.

573.6(c)(6) Chronology of events:

February 19, 2013 – Two chassis cabs exhibited an inadvertent air bag deployment during manufacturing. Spartan Chassis immediately assembled a team and began investigating circumstances related to the events.

February 20, 2013 – Spartan Chassis reviewed information identified during the immediate investigation related to both events and determined a safety defect may exist in chassis cabs equipped with the Spartan APS.

February 21 - February 26, 2013 – Various tests were conducted. Spartan Chassis determined transient electrical loads on the ground circuit of the APS control, in conjunction with a short to ground on a device within the APS, caused an inadvertent deployment.

Engineers developed, and validated, the remedy of moving the ground reference point for the control module.

February 27, 2013 – Spartan Motors Chassis, Inc. notifies NHTSA of the safety defect.

573.6(c)(8) For vehicles affected by this recall, a new sub-wire harness will be installed on the control module in the Spartan APS and connected to a new ground reference point. This will be done at no charge.

Spartan Chassis expects to begin customer notification in March 2013.

**Final Stage Manufacturer Information**

Information below indicates the final stage manufacturers that have received a chassis cab affected by this recall.

Final Stage Manufacturer	Qty
4 Guys, Inc. 230 Industrial Park Rd. Meyersdale, PA 15552 Phone: (814) 634-8373 Contact: Mark Albright	1
Custom Fire Apparatus, Inc. 509 68 th Avenue Osceola, WI 54020 Phone: 800-443-8851 Contact: Jim Kirvida	5
Marion Body Works, Inc. 211 W. Ramsdell Street P.O. Box 500 Marion, WI 54950 Phone: 715-754-5261 Contact: Curt Ignacio	1
Precision Fire Apparatus 524 South Business Hwy 5 Camdenton, MO. 65020 Phone: 573-346-8387 Contact: Brad Johnston	1
Smeal Fire Apparatus Co. P.O. Box 8 610 West 4th Street Snyder, Nebraska 68664 Phone: 402-568-2224 Contact: Jeff Hunke	2



Final Stage Manufacturer Information (continued)

Information below indicates the final stage manufacturers that have received a chassis cab affected by this recall.

Final Stage Manufacturer	Qty
Spartan ERV 907 7th Avenue North Brandon, SD 57005 Phone: 605-582-4000 Contact: Wesley D. Chestnut	14
Toyne, Inc. 104 Granite Ave. Breda, Iowa 51436-0010 Phone: 712-673-2328 Contact: Mike Schwabe	2