



**SPARTAN MOTORS, INC.**

1541 Reynolds Road Charlotte, MI 48813 USA

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September 17, 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 Spartan Motors Chassis, Inc. (Spartan Chassis), hereby reports a defect relating to motor vehicle safety. Spartan Chassis has determined a defect involving the lower control arms of the Independent Front Suspension (IFS) on vehicles altered between when February 17, 2011 through August 8, 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**

13022

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

**573.6(c)(2):** Vehicles affected by this recall were altered by Spartan Chassis for the purpose of being completed as a transit or shuttle bus and are equipped with with an independent front suspension (IFS) supplied by Link Manufacturing, LTD. Vehicles excluded from this recall do not use this IFS.

Link Manufacturing, LTD  
223 15<sup>th</sup> Street N.E.  
Sioux Center, Iowa 51250

<b>Make</b>	Spartan Motors Chassis, Inc.
<b>Models</b>	Transit Bus Chassis Cab
<b>Model Years</b>	2011 through 2013
<b>Vehicle Type</b>	Transit Bus Chassis Cab
<b>Weight Range (GVWR)</b>	14,200 lbs
<b>VDM Range</b>	2/17/2011 through 8/8/2013

Table 1

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

<b>Model</b>	<b>Model Year</b>	<b>Number Involved</b>
Transit Bus Chassis Cab	2011	6
Transit Bus Chassis Cab	2012	46
Transit Bus Chassis Cab	2013	23
<b>Total</b>		75

Table 2

**573.6(c)(4)** The percentage of the vehicles produced between the dates of manufacturing shown in **Table 2** that contain the defect is unknown.



**573.6(c)(5)** A “cold shot” condition, which resulted during the manufacturing process, may exist in the lower control arms. This may cause the control arm to fracture, or break without warning. If the lower control arm breaks, and separates from the mounting bushing, loss of vehicle control could occur and may result in a vehicle crash.

**573.6(c)(6)** Between late July 2013 and August 2013, there were two customer complaints of cracked or broken lower control arms. The lower control arms were returned to the supplier for evaluation.

September 10, 2013 – Link determines a “cold shot” condition during manufacturing led to the cracking/breaking of the lower control arms. Spartan Motors Chassis, Inc. determines a defect relating to motor vehicle safety exists in the affected vehicles.

**573.6(c)(8)** Spartan Chassis will supply new, certified lower control arms and mounting hardware. This will be done at no charge. Customer notification is expected to begin at the end of September.