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By Recall Management division at 9:36 am, Dec 06, 2013



**SPARTAN MOTORS, INC.**

1541 Reynolds Road Charlotte, MI 48813 USA

[www.spartanmotors.com](http://www.spartanmotors.com)

p 517.543.6400

f 517.543.5403

December 5, 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. – Notice of Non-Compliance

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 non-compliance to Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard. Spartan Chassis has determined emergency response chassis cabs, built between March 27, 2002 through November 28, 2013, may be equipped with an L-9 seat belt buckle, supplied by Indiana Mills and Manufacturing Inc. (IMMI), that does not meet S4.3(g) of FMVSS 209 – Seat Belt Assemblies.

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

Best Regards,

Wesley D. Chestnut  
Lead, Compliance



Spartan Motors, Inc.  
1541 Reynolds Road  
Charlotte, MI 48813  
P: 517.543.6400 ext. 3275  
M: 517.231.0712  
E: [Wes.Chestnut@spartanmotors.com](mailto:Wes.Chestnut@spartanmotors.com)  
W: [www.spartanmotors.com](http://www.spartanmotors.com)



**Notice of Non-Compliance  
13026**

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

**573.6(c)(2):** Emergency response chassis cabs affected by this recall are equipped with and L-9 seat belt buckle supplied by IMMI. IMMI supplied information that aided in identifying the affected vehicles. Based on that information, all other vehicles were excluded.

Indiana Mills and Manufacturing Inc.  
18881 US 31 North  
Westfield, IN 46074

<b>Make</b>	Spartan Motors Chassis, Inc.
<b>Models</b>	Gladiator and MetroStar
<b>Model Years</b>	2002, 2009, and 2013
<b>Vehicle Type</b>	Emergency Response Chassis Cab
<b>Weight Range (GVWR)</b>	45,000 lbs – 82,000 lbs
<b>VDM Range</b>	3/27/02 through 11/28/12

Table 1

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

<b>Model</b>	<b>Model Year</b>	<b>Number Involved</b>
MetroStar	2002	1
Gladiator	2009	1
Gladiator	2013	1
<b>Total</b>		3

Table 2

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



**573.6(c)(5)** Certain seat belt assemblies equipped with an L9 end-release seat belt buckles are potentially not compliant to S4.3(g) of FMVSS 209. Some of the locking pawls from certain lots were produced with an excessively large burr on the locking surface. When the push button is pressed to release the latch, the partially engaged latch plate may not separate from the buckle when a force of 22N is applied.

**573.6(c)(6)** **November 13, 2013** – IMMI notified Spartan Chassis of the potential non-compliance and supplied an original list of affected components. Based on that list, the affected components were identified to be in Spartan Chassis’s inventory and subsequently returned to IMMI.

**November 19, 2013** – IMMI submitted a subsequent list of affected components to Spartan Chassis which identified an increased number of affected components. Additionally, Seats Inc. notified Spartan Chassis of the potential non-compliance which affected a certain number of seats that were equipped with affected seat belt buckles.

Based on these notices, Spartan Chassis identified a certain number of the affected seat belt buckles were sold as market parts. Spartan Chassis began work to trace the affected seat belt buckles to vehicles.

**November 26, 2013** – Spartan Chassis identifies 6 (3 in the US, 3 in Canada) emergency response vehicles that may be affected by this issue.

**November 27, 2013** – Spartan Chassis decides a non-compliance exists in the affected vehicles.

**573.6(c)(8)** Spartan Chassis will send notifications to owners of the affected vehicles along with the inspection instructions supplied by IMMI to identify the affected components. The non-compliant buckles will be replaced free of charge. Customer notification is expected to begin in late December.