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13V-182
(3 pages)



SPARTAN MOTORS, INC.

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May 7, 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 steering gear mounting brackets installed on approximately 2694 motor home chassis built between 7/20/2005 and 12/17/2010.

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
13011**

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

573.6(c)(2): Certain motor home chassis affected by this recall are equipped with a steering gear mounting bracket with gussets welded at the lower and top ends. Spartan Chassis continues to investigate this matter.

| | |
|----------------------------|--|
| Make | Spartan Motors Chassis, Inc. |
| Models | K2, K3, and MM |
| Model Years | 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, and 2011 |
| Vehicle Type | Chassis for motor home |
| Weight Range (GVWR) | 34,300 lbs through 50,600 lbs |
| VDM Range | 7/20/2005 through 12/17/2010 |

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 |
|--------------|-------------------|------------------------|
| K2 | 2006 | 152 |
| K3 | 2006 | 24 |
| MM | 2006 | 250 |
| K2 | 2007 | 223 |
| K3 | 2007 | 26 |
| MM | 2007 | 670 |
| K2 | 2008 | 231 |
| K3 | 2008 | 16 |
| MM | 2008 | 574 |
| K2 | 2009 | 52 |
| K3 | 2009 | 11 |
| MM | 2009 | 214 |
| K2 | 2010 | 98 |
| K3 | 2010 | 22 |
| MM | 2010 | 91 |
| K2 | 2011 | 39 |
| K3 | 2011 | 1 |
| Total | | 2694 |

Table 2



- 573.6(c)(4)** The percentage of the vehicles produced between the dates of manufacturing shown in **Table 1** that contain the defect is unknown.
- 573.6(c)(5)** Welds that attach supporting gussets to the main bracket material may crack resulting in fatigue to the main bracket. Increased fatigue on the main bracket could result in a complete separation of the main bracket and subsequent loss of steering. Loss of steering could result in a vehicle crash. This could occur without warning.
- 573.6(c)(6)** **March 28, 2013** – In a review of warranty history for an unrelated matter, reports of cracked weld joints on steering gear mounting brackets was identified.
- April 4, 2013** – The issue is accepted by the Corrective Action Review Team and a problem solving team is assigned to begin work on addressing the issue.
- April 9, 2013** – Engineering evaluations on the design of the bracket begin.
- April 24, 2013** – Evaluations indicate under normal loaded conditions, the weld joints will crack and may extend into the main bracket material.
- April 30, 2013** – The organization determines the defect to be related to motor vehicle safety.
- 573.6(c)(8)** The remedy for this defect is still being evaluated. As such, an interim notification may be needed.