



U.S. Department of Transportation
**National Highway Traffic Safety
Administration**

1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

April 6, 2018

Mr. Wesley Chestnut
Spartan Motors USA
1541 Reynolds Road
Charlotte, MI 48813

NEF-150MR
18V-206

Subject: Front Axle Spindle may Fracture

Dear Mr. Chestnut:

This letter serves to acknowledge Spartan Motors USA's notification to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) of a safety recall which will be conducted pursuant to Federal law for the product(s) listed below. Please review the following information to ensure that it conforms to your records as this information is being made available to the public. If the information does not agree with your records, please contact us immediately to discuss your concerns.

Makes/Models/Model Years:

SPARTAN/GLADIATOR/2004-2007

Mfr's Report Date: March 29, 2018

NHTSA Campaign Number: 18V-206

Components:

SUSPENSION:FRONT

Potential Number of Units Affected: 11

Problem Description:

Spartan Motors USA (Spartan) is recalling certain 2004-2007 Spartan Emergency Response Gladiator vehicles equipped with Timoney Independent Front Suspensions. Inconsistent machining may result in fatigue cracks developing over time in the front axle spindles, causing failure of the spindle and the possible separation of a front wheel from the vehicle.

Consequence:

A wheel separation from the vehicle can increase the risk of a crash.

Remedy:

Spartan will notify owners, and dealers will replace the front axle spindle, free of charge. The manufacturer has not yet provided a notification schedule. Owners may contact Spartan customer service at 1-800-543-5008. Spartan's number for this recall is 18012.

Notes:

Owners may also contact the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration Vehicle Safety Hotline at 1-888-327-4236 (TTY 1-800-424-9153), or go to www.safercar.gov.

Please be reminded of the following requirements:

You are required to submit a draft owner notification letter to this office no less than five days prior to mailing it to the customers. Also, copies of all notices, bulletins, dealer notifications, and other communications that relate to this recall, including a copy of the final owner notification letter and any subsequent owner follow-up notification letter(s), are required to be submitted to this office no later than 5 days after they are originally sent (if they are sent to more than one manufacturer, distributor, dealer, or purchaser/owner).

You are required to provide an estimated date including month, day, and year, when you will send notifications to owners, dealers, and distributors as soon as it becomes available. Please be reminded that it is required that owners be notified of a safety defect in their vehicles within 60 days of a manufacturer's notification to NHTSA of a safety defect in those vehicles.

As stated in Part 573.7, submission of the first of six consecutive quarterly status reports is required within one month after the close of the calendar quarter in which notification to purchasers occurs. Therefore, the first quarterly report will be due on, or before, 30 days after the close of the calendar quarter.

Your contact for this recall will be Michelle Rice who may be reached by phone at (202) 366-1060, or by email at michelle.rice@dot.gov or through the office email at rmd.odi@dot.gov. We look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,



Jennifer Timian
Chief, Recall Management Division
Office of Defects Investigations
Enforcement