

Part 573 Safety Recall Report

19V-146

Manufacturer Name : A-1 AUTO ELECTRIC**Submission Date :** FEB 28, 2019**NHTSA Recall No. :** 19V-146**Manufacturer Recall No. :** x**Manufacturer Information :**

Manufacturer Name : A-1 AUTO ELECTRIC
Address : 2320 STANISLAUS STREET
 FRESNO CA 93721
Company phone : 559-485-4427

Population :

Number of potentially involved : 15
Estimated percentage with defect : 100 %

Vehicle Information :**Vehicle 1 :** 2015-2015 Freightliner Refuse**Vehicle Type :** BUSES, MEDIUM & HEAVY VEHICLES**Body Style :** 2-DOOR**Power Train :** CNG/LPG

Descriptive Information : A-1 Alternative Fuel Systems is a company that performs CNG conversions on new vehicles. In 2015 we acquired from a Freightliner dealership a CNG conversion job on fifteen 2015 AutoCar refuse trucks. These vehicles were being sold to the City of Los Angeles. Based on the specifications we were required to use a specific tank assembly. This upfit required one tank per unit. This tank was available and we purchased from Luxfer Canada Inc. We purchased these tanks including valves, but did not specify the valve type on our order. (Valves are typically specified and installed on tanks from most manufactures). This was our first and only purchase of this style tank. To emphasize, up to this time we have only purchased 15 of these assemblies and they were for this specific 15 unit order. The conversions were started mid-2015 and the units were all completed by August 17, 2015. Our records indicate no further contact or warranties associated with this job. On January 17, 2019 we were informed by Luxfer of a possible problem with the valve that came with these tanks. Luxfer indicated that they were investigating and would be taking care of the situation. We also examined our records and we were directly unaware of any failures. On 2/7/19 we were notified by your office that a recall notice was issued. At that time we contacted Luxfer and confirmed to them that 15 units had been sold to our customer and went on to the city of Los Angeles with this tank installed. This was also our first discussion regarding the type and methods for repair. They indicated that they would be the company that would address the issue and we assumed that we would have a subordinate role of coordinating the vehicle repairs. We viewed the Luxfer response and concur as best we can. We also notified the City of Los Angeles of the issue at that time. After further investigation by our staff, we developed a complete understanding of the valve failure and also commutated the fix to the city of LA.

Production Dates : JUN 15, 2015 - JUN 15, 2015**VIN Range 1 :** Begin : 5VCARREL1FH21978 **End :** 5VCARLE4FH219791 Not sequential

Description of Defect :

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FMVSS 1 : 304 - Compressed natural gas fuel container integrity

FMVSS 2 : NR

Description of the Safety Risk : if knob is overturned the valve retaining snap ring may fails causing the vale stem to forcibly eject from the valve body, the valve body would be ejected with great force that may cause injury to any person in it's path.

Description of the Cause : Design may allow valve to be over-tightened and exceeding the torque and pressure on snap ring.

Identification of Any Warning that can Occur : Over-tighten using the valve handle

Supplier Identification :**Component Manufacturer**

Name : Luxfer Canada Ltd

Address : 4410-46 AVE South East

Calgary FOREIGN STATES T2B 3N7

Country : Canada

Chronology :

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Description of Remedy :

Description of Remedy Program : A-1 Alternative Fuel Systems has notify owners, and will provide an upgrade kit supplied by Luxfer for the valves which doubles the snap ring strength, free of charge. A-1 has contacted and is working with the city of Los Angeles Vehicle Maintenance Department to schedule vehicles out of service for this repair upgrade.
Owners may also contact Luxfer customer service at 1-403/720-0262

How Remedy Component Differs from Recalled Component : Luxfer, the valve manufacturer has change a snap ring to a stronger snap ring that will prevent the over tightening of the handle to break the snap ring that retains the valve seal and seat

Identify How/When Recall Condition was Corrected in Production : defective valve was discontinued by the manufacturer
(Luxfer Equipment Report Transaction ID: 19-0021525-21848-10)

Recall Schedule :

Description of Recall Schedule : Truck owner was contacted on February 12, 2019 and notified of the condition. Luxfer supplied us the parts for the upgrade on 2/22/19. We are working with the city of Los Angeles, vehicle maintenance division on scheduling the truck out of service for the repair.

Planned Dealer Notification Date : NR - NR

Planned Owner Notification Date : NR - NR

* NR - Not Reported