U.S. Department of Transportation

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

ODI RESUME

OFFICE OF DEFECTS INVESTIGATION

NHTSA

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Investigation: EQ 10-003
Prompted by:
Date Opened: 04/01/2010 **Date Closed:** 09/08/2010
Investigator: Alexander Ansley
Approver: Ric Willard
Subject: IMMI Seat Custion Locking Mechanisms

MANUFACTURER & PRODUCT INFORMATION

Manufacturer: INDIANA MILLS & MANUFACTURING, INC.
Products: School Bus Seats manufactured between 10/6/09 & 1/25/10
Population: 2,296

Problem Description: Certain IMMI school bus seats, after installation, fail to conform to FMVSS No. 222 by containing a seat cushion locking mechanism that may become misaligned.

FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

	ODI	Manufacturer	Total
Complaints:	0	0	0
Crashes/Fires:	0	0	0
Injury Incidents:	0	0	0
Fatality Incidents:	0	0	0

ACTION / SUMMARY INFORMATION

Action: Close EQ

Summary:

On February 1, 2010, Indiana Mills & Manufacturing, Inc. (IMMI) notified NHTSA that it sold certain school bus seats, manufactured between October 6, 2009 and January 25, 2010, and that these seats did not meet FMVSS No. 222, "School bus passenger seating and crash protection," when installed in a school bus application. IMMI stated that certain seat cushion locking mechanisms are capable of being misaligned during vehicle assembly or after the vehicle is in use. A seat cushion with a misaligned locking mechanism might not be able to meet the requirements of FMVSS No. 222 as it would not allow the cushion to remain attached to the seat during a certain threshold of upward force. Should a school bus seat cushion become detached from the seat during vehicle operation, personal injury is possible to the seat occupant(s).

On April 2nd, 2010, RMD mailed IR letters requesting 573 Defect Report submissions to 13 of the 14 purchasers IMMI listed in its February 1st letter to the agency. Daimler Trucks (Thomas Bus) had already filed a Defect Report for its buses in February (10V-058). After a second IR letter was mailed to the other 13 purchasers on June 17, 2010, RMD received a response from all purchasers with the exception of Durham School Services. As a school bus operator and not a vehicle manufacturer, they would not be required to notify the NHTSA and submit a Defect Report, but RMD did want to notify them of this safety issue.

Of the 12 respondents, 4 chose to file a subsequent Defect Report for school buses they built with these seats:

Collins Bus Corp: 10V-291
Starcraft Bus: 10V-194
Bus West: 10V-292
HA Dehart & Sons: 10V-142

The remaining 8 responses did not require a Defect Report as the vehicles were repaired prior to sale, the seats were previously returned to IMMI, or they were not installed into buses as original equipment.

This EQ is closed.

EQ responses can be found in the Document Repository. A working spreadsheet of responses can be found by clicking on the paper clip in this Adobe document.

EQ10-003 IMMI School Bus Seats

IR Letter Mailed Certified: April 2, 2010
2nd IR Mailed Certified: June 17th, 2010

OEM	Street	ST 2	City	State	Zip	Status	573#
Bus Air Manufacturing	6630 East Highway 114		Rhome	TX	76078	called on 7/9. Retail sale only. Sending me an email to that effect. Received on 9/1. No 573 needed.	-
Collins Bus Corp	415 West 6th St		South Hutc	KS	67505	I emailed Chris Hiebert on 5/26. Filed 573.	**10V-291**
First Group America	140 Shawnee		Buffalo	NY	14215	General counsel emailed on 6/22. All replacement equipment and remedied. No 573 needed.	-
IC Corp Of Oklahoma, LLC	2322 North Mingo Rd		Tulsa	OK	74116	Rick Van Laar called on 6/29. All repaired prior to sale. Sending letter. No 573 needed.	-
IC Corp.	751 South Harkrider		Conway	AR	72032	Rick Van Laar called on 6/29. All repaired prior to sale. Sending letter. No 573 needed.	-
Starcraft Bus	2367 Century Dr.		Goshen	IN	46528	Filed 573 on 4/14 for 1 unit.	**10V-194**
State of DE - Laurel School Dist.	1160 S. Central Avenue		Laurel	DE	19956	Mark called on 5/12. Installed into their own bus. Sending email. They emailed me on 6/24- Sending report.	-
Transportation South, Inc.	1400 McCain Parkway		Pelham	AL	35124	Buckey Law called while I was at Auto Show. He only sold units retail. Sending letter. I emailed him on 4/15 also.	-
Bus West	TransWest Truck Center	1015	Fontana	CA	92335	Rosa called- I emailed her a blank 573 on 6/22- Filed on 6/29	**10V-292**
Matthews Buses	7313 Northern Blvd.	Syrac	East Syracu	NY	13057	Received email on 4/6. Only 2 units. Returned to IMMI. No 573 Needed.	-
H A Dehart & Son Inc	311 Crown Point Rd	FTBB	Thorofore	NJ	8086	Filed 573 on 4/8 via email. Kelly processing.	**10V-142**
Sartin Services, Inc.	Trans/South Services, Inc.	71 Hi	Fort Valley	GA	31030	Sharon called. Retail sale only. Emailing letter over. Direct ship to customer. No 573 needed.	-
Durham School Services, L.P.	250 West 53rd St. North		Wichita	KS	67204	No response. School Bus operator. Would not be required to file 573.	-